

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

STORIES
FROM
THE OLD
TESTAMENT



DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

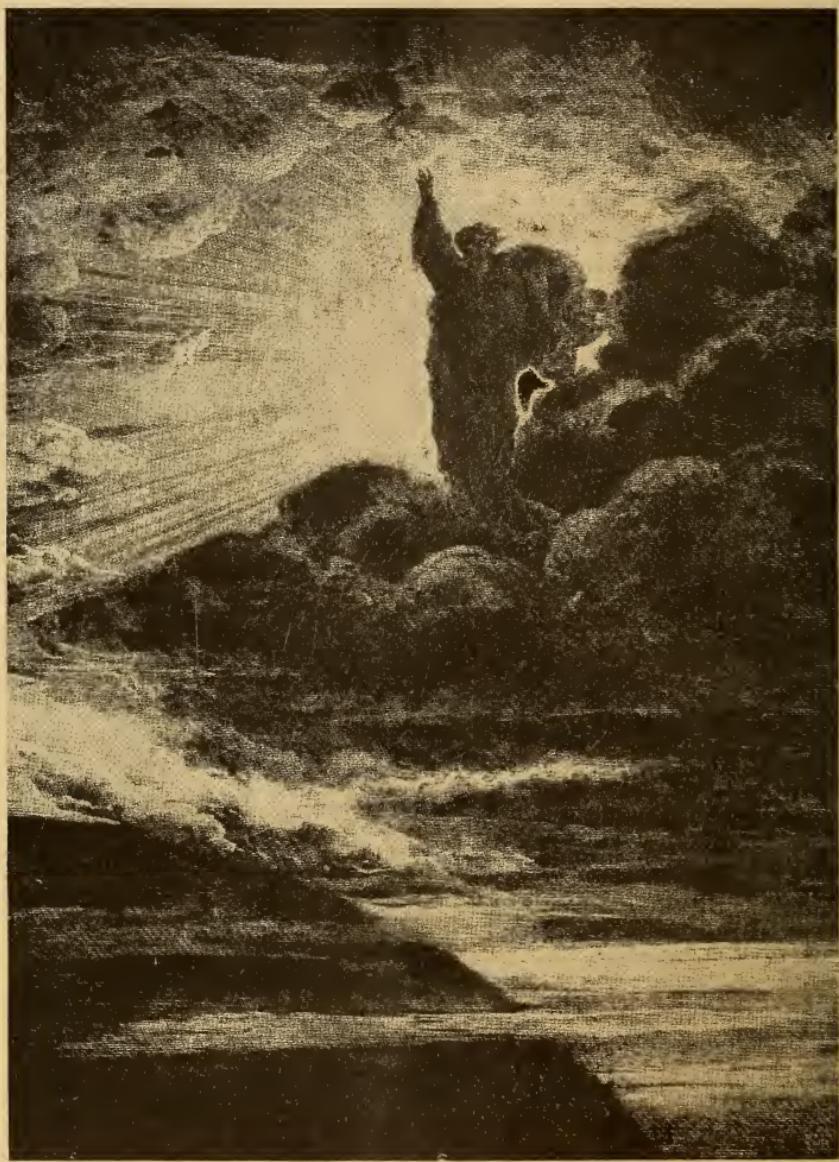


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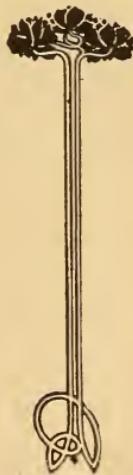
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Creation of Light

Dore

STORIES *from*
"The Old Testament
FOR THE
Primary Department of the
Sunday School



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PREFACE

We are sending these "Stories from the Old Testament" to the teachers of the primary classes of our Sunday Schools with the earnest hope and sincere prayer that the stories will assist the teachers in presenting to the children under their care, lessons that will so impress the children as to broaden and strengthen their characters, increase their faith, and make Latter-day Saints of them.

Never fail to read and prayerfully study the Bible text itself, that you may be able to live the experience covered by the story, recognize the value of the truth it portrays, make the message your own, and, from the abundance of your love for the truth, for our Heavenly Father, and for the children, give it to the little ones in such a way as to lead them to **know**, to **feel**, and to **live** its truth.

Remember always that the story is but a **means**, and not an **end**—a means "to reach and enrich their souls"—not merely their intellects.

Tell it to them in your own way—the way best calculated to appeal to the hearts of the children of your class.

May the Father give you to feel that you have painted "upon the living canvas of the soul the lessons of God and truth and immortality, that shall resist the decaying hand of time, and pass on to eternity."

Though simply told, we indulge the hope that these stories will find a welcome in the homes of the people for fireside reading.

We want to acknowledge the great assistance we have received in the preparation of this book, through having access to the work of former members of the Primary Department Committee of the General Board. Our thanks are due especially to Elder Wm. A. Morton, Sister Dorothy Bowman and Sister Ethel Symons Brinton.

CHAS. B. FELT,
FLORENCE S. HORNE,
BESSIE F. FOSTER,

Primary Dept. Committee of the General Board.

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Stories from the Old Testament

LESSON 1: THE CREATION

Text: Gen. 1; 2:1-3; Pearl of Great Price, Moses 2; Abraham 3:22-28; 4.

Aim: Love and reverence for God are shown by loving and revering what He has created.

Memory Gem: "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold it was very good."

Songs: "The Opening Buds of Springtime," No. 72 in Deseret Sunday School Songs. "The Wide, Wide World" in Songs of the Child World (Gaynor). Any good nature song.

I. Council in Heaven.

1. Our spirits in heaven.
2. The great plan.

II. God's Command.

1. Chaotic state of matter.
2. World takes definite form.
3. Darkness on the deep.

III. Periods of Creation.

1. Earth and water.
2. Day and night.
3. Vegetable and animal life.
 - a. Man.

IV. The Seventh Day.

1. The Sabbath of the Lord.

Point of Contact: Get the children to talk of the things of nature they love best—their animal pets, the swimming-places, the snow and ice which give them sleighing, coasting and drinking water, the flowers, the mountains and canyons, and the fruits.

Lesson Statement: I. Once upon a time—so long ago that we cannot tell how long—there was no earth where our earth now is; no land, no water, no flowers, or grass or trees, but there was room or place for an earth. At that time we all lived in heaven, with God our Heavenly Father. We do not remember it now, but our spirits lived there and we knew Jesus and loved Him. We wanted to live on an earth, where beautiful bodies would be given us, and where we could do such splendid things that we could show God and Jesus that we really and truly loved them.

And so it was decided that an earth should be formed, and we would be permitted to live upon it. God knew that if left alone some would do wrong and sin would come into the world; then we could not come back to Him without someone was willing to come and die for us. Jesus offered to come and do this. He was willing, because He loved us so much, to leave His heavenly home, come upon this earth, and suffer a cruel death so that we might at some time return to our Heavenly Father. He said, "Here am I; send me. Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever." This made all of us happy and "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

II. I will tell you a pretty story of how this earth was formed. God knew where there was material from which an earth could be formed.

“Once upon a time every place all through the sky was full of star dust, which God set whirling and whirling until first one round world whirled off and went dancing along the path that God had bidden it follow, and then another and another and another, until all the sky was full of whirling worlds, all dancing along in the paths God bade them follow. One of these whirling worlds was the world that we live in. God’s spirit brooded over it as the mother bird broods over her nest, until it was made ready to be a world that animals and people could live in.” (Louise Seymour Houghton’s “Telling Bible Stories.”)

“What makes this great world so beautiful?” The sunshine, the rivers and lakes, the trees and flowers, the birds and butterflies—oh, I am sure you could not tell me of everything that makes it so attractive. It is so wonderfully great and beautiful that we know no man could have made it, but God made it. It was very strange at first, for water was all over it. People could not live in water. God said, therefore, “Let the waters be gathered together and let dry land appear.” Then the waters separated so the land appeared upon which man could live.

Have you seen the mountains, the trees, the snow? What was it that helped you see them? Your eyes? Yes, they do help, but if you should go into a dark closet and shut the door, could you see anything? No, though you would still have your eyes. Then what is

it that helps you to see? Why, yes, the bright sun. Do you know that when the earth was formed you could not have seen it had you been there? There was no sun, everything was dark. God knew that the people would not be happy if they had to stay in the dark all the time, so He said, "Let there be light," and the beautiful light appeared.

III. What do you think God called the time when it was light? Yes, just what we call it now, day. And when it was dark He called it night. We love the sunshine and yet we should love the darkness, also. We could not sleep so well nor so restfully, I am sure, if our rooms were as bright at night as in the day.

Our Heavenly Father knew that after little children had worked and played all day, they would be very tired. He planned therefore to have the darkness come, so they might have a long, restful sleep and be bright and fresh for the next beautiful day. The animals need the rest, too, and even the flowers would not grow so well if the sun shone all the time. Some of them close their pretty eyes at night, just as little children do, and wait for the sunbeams to waken them. Can you tell me a flower that does this?

Now tell me some of the things the sun does for us.

What else did God make to shine in the sky? Yes, He made the lovely moon and the stars, too. How beautiful the moonlight is! Have you seen it sparkling on the snow, so brightly that there seemed to be diamonds shining all over the ground? How good God was to give us the lovely moon. How many stars did He make for us, children? More than we can count, and they are beautiful also.

But the earth was not fit for man to live upon, for it was brown and bare. Nothing grew upon it to make it look pretty, and so God, who wanted it to be beautiful, made things grow upon it. What do you think they were? God made a soft, warm mist to come, just as it comes now sometimes in the summer mornings. The mist made the ground soft and warm, so the seeds could grow, for He hid many little seeds in the earth, and they were waiting till He sent His mist to call them to spring up to make grass and flowers, trees and bushes. (If time permitted one could ask the children to name some of the trees they know; talk of their beauty and use, of the sweet music of the rustling leaves when the winds blow, of the changing colors in different seasons, of the fruits they bear for our use; the benefit we get from their wood in building our homes, our chapel, our furniture. Then speak of the vines, the flowers, the grass and the grains.)

Yet after all this earth was silent, for there were no birds to sing in the trees, no fish to swim in the waters. No animals roamed through the forests, and no people gathered flowers or fruit. God then made the creatures which live in the water—what do we call them?

After God had made the fishes to live in the water He made the birds to fly in the air. Of what use and beauty are they? Then God made the animals—and what a lot of them. (Draw from the children the names and uses of many animals.)

And now God made the most wonderful thing of all—and what do you think it was? Yes, a man. All that

had been made before was for the people whom God intended should come upon the earth; all these things were prepared for us, for we are all the children of that man whom God first placed upon the earth.

God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." I am sure he was a splendid man, tall and straight with beautiful eyes and hair, for he was in the image and likeness of God. God gave him dominion—that is, he was to have charge of all the things God had previously made. God told this man to name all of these birds and animals, etc., which he did. But he was alone with no one to help him, so God made for him a woman, and these two became the first Father and Mother of all the people. They were among the noblest of all those in heaven, and the name of the man was Adam and of the woman, Eve.

If you had seen this beautiful world then, what would you have said of it? That it was good? Well, that is just what God said. "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold it was very good."

IV. This great work was now finished and God appointed a day of rest. He called it the seventh day, the Sabbath, and He rested on that day and hallowed it. This is why we have our happy Sundays, when we may think about God more than we do on any other day, because we are resting from our every-day plays, just as He rested when He finished making all the world, the sun and the stars, and the animals and man.

Let us repeat our memory gem.

(Adapted principally from Laura Ellen Cragin's Bible Stories.)

Application: I know a little boy who has a dog which loves him so much that he can teach it many, many tricks and it wants to be with him and do things for him all the time. How do you suppose he must have treated that dog, one of the gifts God has created for him on this earth?

The other day I saw another boy who was walking on the sidewalk, pick up a stone and throw at a dog which he saw running harmlessly by in the street. He called that fun. Which of those boys loved God's gifts the more? How can you tell? Why would he be likely to love God the more also?

I know of two homes standing side by side. One has a beautiful thick, well-cut lawn around it, and so many flowers planted that there are some in bloom nearly all the time, except in winter. The other has a thin brownish colored lawn and no flowers. Which family is enjoying this beautiful earth that God has created for us the more? Of course they had to work to get these things to grow, but God has placed them here for us to use if we love them enough to work for them.

Which of these things do you love? Which do you work to get?

Note: Have the children memorize the following, which may be learned as a song if the teacher knows the tune.

GOD'S GOODNESS

Snow-white lilies as they nod,
Tell us of the love of God;
And the brooklet flowing by,
Lifts the voice of praise on high;
Everything in field and wood
Praises God, for He is good.

All the dew-drops everywhere,
Tell the flowers of beauty rare,
As they greet them with a kiss,
"God sends dew-drops down like this."
Let us praise Him as they should,
For our God is kind and good.

Little stars in heaven above,
Tell of God's eternal love;
Children, too, their voices raise,
In glad hymns and songs of praise,
Singing sweetly as they should,
To our God so kind and good.

LESSON 2. THE FIRST PARENTS

Text: Genesis 2, 3; Pearl of Great Price, Moses 3:8-25, 4, 5:4-11.

Aim and Memory Gem: "Honor thy Father and thy Mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord, thy God, giveth thee."

I. Our First Parents.

1. Honor due to them.
2. Their home.

II. Breaking of the Commandment.

1. The commandment.
2. The temptation.
3. The fall.

III. The Penalty.

1. Adam and Eve become mortal.
2. Driven from garden.
3. Changes in the earth.
4. Labor and pain.

IV. The Plan of Salvation Revealed.

1. Adam and Eve call upon the Lord.
2. Angel sent from heaven.
3. Adam and Eve rejoice.

Point of Contact: Once upon a time there were two little children, whose names were Philip and Marjorie. Their father and mother planned a lovely playroom for them as a pleasant surprise. The sunlight came in brightly through the windows, many pretty pictures were on the walls, birds sang in cages, and gold fish swam

about in a large glass jar. Pretty plants blossomed in the windows, and flowers were arranged in vases.

There were more toys than I can begin to tell you about—dolls, a doll's house and cunning blocks and balls. You can just think how delighted the children were when they saw all these beautiful things! They danced about their papa and mamma and cried:

“Oh, how lovely it all is! How good you are to give it to us!”

Then papa said, “Children, it is all yours and you may play with what you please. The candy is simple and won't hurt you and you can eat any of the fruit except these apples. They are not quite ripe and might make you ill, so you must not touch them.”

Then papa and mamma left the room and for a long time the children played with the toys very happily. At last, however, Marjorie began to get a little tired of play, and as she wandered about the room, she happened to notice the dish of apples on the table. Other fruit was there also, but those pretty, rosy apples seemed nicer than anything else. The more she looked the more she wanted them. She forgot all the other things that had been given to her and she thought: “I don't see why papa doesn't want us to eat those apples. I'm just sure they wouldn't hurt us.”

Then she touched one with her finger. After a moment she took it in her hand, and at last she tasted it. As soon as she had done this she called to her brother, “Oh, Philip, you don't know how good these apples are!”

Philip came quickly and cried out, "Why, Marjorie, papa told us not to touch them!"

"I know," said Marjorie, "but I did want them so much and I don't believe they'll hurt us a bit. You'd better take one, too. I'm sure they are ripe and they taste so good."

Philip said, "Indeed I won't." But instead of going back to his toys, he looked and looked at the beautiful apples, until at last he, too, tasted one.

Just then papa came to the room to see how the children were enjoying the surprise. Instead of running to him with happy faces, Philip and Marjorie hung their heads and looked so ashamed. Papa asked, "Why, what have you been doing, children?"

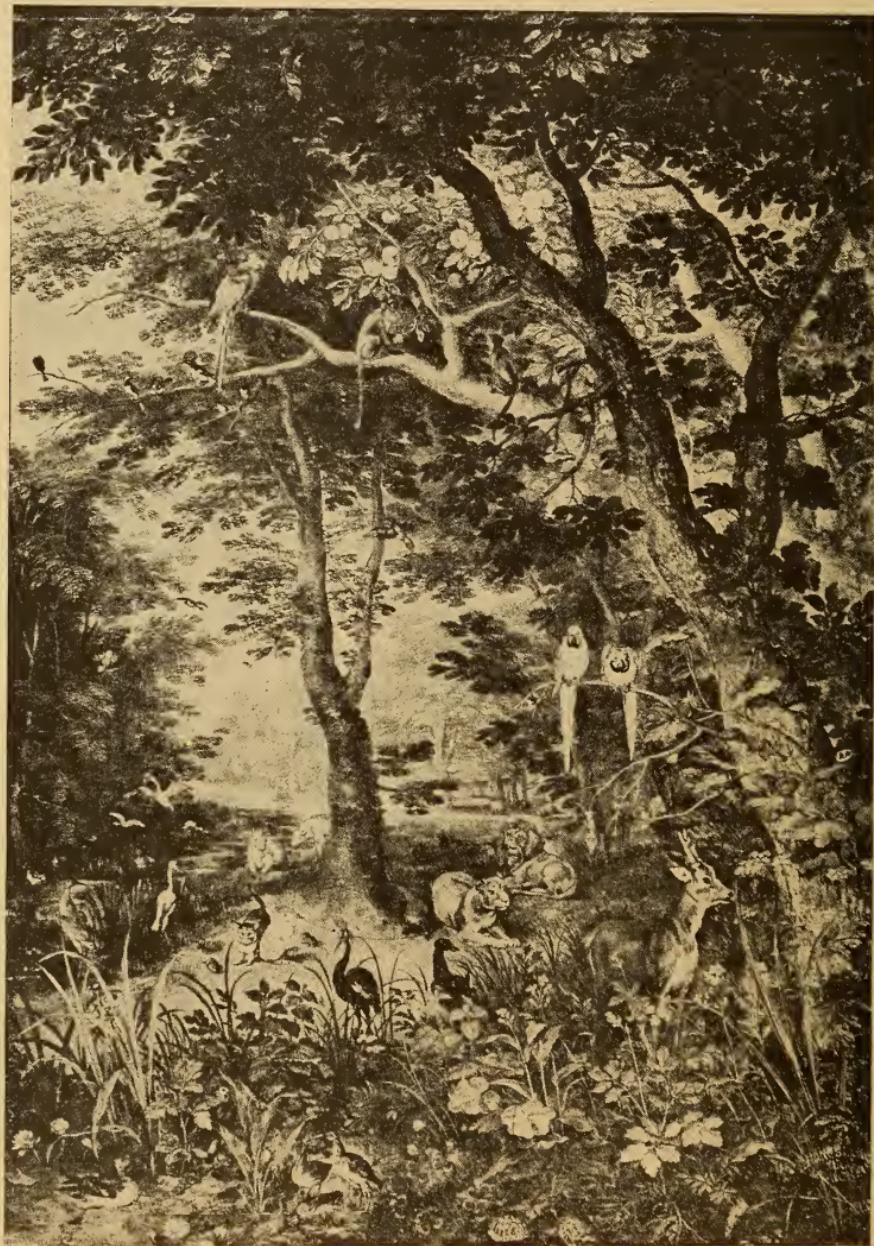
Then he saw the fruit in their hands and he said very sadly: "Have you really eaten the apples? When we gave you so many beautiful things, couldn't you mind us and not touch this fruit?"

He took each by the hand and said: "You must come out of this pretty room where we hoped you would be so happy. When you are strong enough to do just what we tell you, and when your elder brother, who has not disobeyed us, asks us to let you, you may come back and play here again."

(Adapted from Laura Ella Cragin's "Bible Stories.")

Lesson Statement: I. Who stand at the head of our homes?

I am sure our hearts are full of love for the parents our Heavenly Father has given us, and that we obey His command and honor and obey them. Our Heavenly Father has said, "Honor thy Father and thy Mother that



Garden of Eden

Jan Brueghel

thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

I am going to tell you of the first Father and Mother that were ever on this earth, and of the beautiful home God made for them, that we may love and honor them, too, for they are related to us.

We have learned how God formed the heavens and the earth, the birds and beasts, and made man just like Himself in face and form, then rested on the seventh day and hallowed it.

For this man, whose name was Adam, God planted the most beautiful garden ever seen, having in it every fruit, every flower, every graceful shrub and vine, and every stately tree. The air was laden with sweet perfume, and birds with the most beautiful plumage flew from tree to tree, their sweet music filling the air with melody. Great lions roamed through the garden, while lambs and other animals fed peacefully in the green pastures; the lion did not want to harm the lamb, nor was the lamb afraid of the lion, for love and peace filled the earth. Fish of all kinds darted through the waters. Everything was beautiful and much to be desired, but the most wonderful of all created things was man, whom God had made in His own image.

And God gave Adam charge of this beautiful garden, which was called the Garden of Eden, and He commanded that every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air "should come unto Adam, to see what he would call them. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowls of the air, and to every beast of the field."

Our Heavenly Father also gave Adam a wife, whose name was Eve, and they were the only people in all the world. Their spirits had lived with God and our spirits up in heaven, where they were so good and great, and God so loved them that He chose them to come to this earth to become our first parents. Should we not love and honor them too!

Just think of this—the Lord visited and talked with Adam and Eve, and He said to them: “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; nevertheless thou mayest choose for thyself, for it is given unto thee.” But they were told that if they ate the fruit of the “Tree of Knowledge” they would have to leave the garden and sometime they would die.

II. Then the evil spirit came to Eve in the form of a serpent, and told her that she would **not** die if she ate of that fruit, but that it would make her wise; and she believed the evil one, and ate some of it. Then she gave some to Adam, and while he knew what would happen if he ate it, he also partook, as he did not want to be separated from Eve.

III. The Lord then turned them out of the garden, and because sin had come into the world, thorns and thistles and weeds began to grow, many animals became cross and angry, and the earth was no longer so peaceful and beautiful. Adam had then to work hard, to dig the earth, and plant the seed, and reap the crops, for food, while pain came to both Adam and Eve.

IV. Adam and Eve prayed to the Lord and He heard their prayers. He sent His angel to tell them to offer

sacrifice; that is to take an animal, kill it, and burn it upon a table of stone. They obeyed this commandment.

Then our Heavenly Father sent His angel again to Adam to tell him that Jesus, the Son of God, would come into the world as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and that the sacrifice he had been told to offer, represented the sacrifice that Jesus would make, and so was to be offered until He should come into the world.

This message was given to Adam: "As thou hast fallen thou mayest be redeemed and all mankind, even as many as will." So Adam knew that he and all his children, that is all the people who should come to live upon the earth, would be resurrected, and if they were baptized and served the Lord they would go back to live with Him.

This promise made Adam and Eve very happy. They again obeyed the Lord and were baptized in water, just as we are, and our Heavenly Father sent His Holy Spirit upon them and they were filled with joy. Adam said, "Blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy, and again in the flesh I shall see God."

"And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying: 'Were it not for our transgression we never should have had seed, and never should have known good from evil, and the joy of our redemption and the eternal life which God giveth all the obedient.'"

Adam and Eve obeyed the Lord and He loved them.

Application: Who were our first parents?

What have we in our hearts for them?

How did our Heavenly Father show them honor?
How can we honor them?

After they were driven from the Garden of Eden,
what did the angel tell Adam to do?

How were they to offer sacrifice?
Adam and Eve rejoiced. Why?

SONG

In the Garden of Eden our first parents lived,
Where all things about them were fair,
Where the trees and the shrubs yielded goodly fruit
And the fragrance of flowers filled the air.

In this lovely retreat there they walked with the Lord;
Who taught them His will to obey.
Of what things they should eat and of what they should
not
He there told them and then went away.

For their not giving heed to the Lord's strict command,
From the beautiful garden they're turned,
They henceforth must suffer grief, sorrow and pain,
And by labor their bread must be earned.

But He gave them a promise that made their hearts glad,
That to earth He would send His dear Son,
Whose blood should atone for the sins of mankind,
And bring them to heaven once again.

(Note: The tune "Ben Bolt" or that of "Peek-a-boo," without the chorus, could be used for this song.)

LESSON 3. TWO BROTHERS

Text: Genesis 4; Pearl of Great Price, Moses 5, 6:1-10.

Aim: Those who serve the Lord in little things are safe from great temptation.

Memory Gem: "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."

I. Early Life of Cain and Abel

1. Babies.
2. Boyhood.
3. Manhood.

II. Their Offerings.

1. Abel's love for the Lord.
2. Cain's disloyalty.

III. The Slaying of Abel.

IV. The Penalty.

1. Cain banished.
2. Marked with a dark skin.

Point of Contact: A father sent his two young sons out into his field to work for him. They were to hoe in his garden. One went out willingly, worked cheerfully all the day, and by night had done his share of the rows to be hoed.

The other grumbled at having to go, and played a while before beginning his task; and when he did work he did it in a slow, lazy, careless manner which said plainly, "I'm doing this only because I have to do it."

At night their father went out to see how much each had done. How do you think he felt toward the first boy? Toward the second boy? Which would get the more love? How would the other boy be likely to feel? Would he have any right to feel angry toward his father? Toward his brother? Why? How could he get his father's love and respect if he wanted them?

Lesson Statement: I. Adam and Eve were now very happy because they knew that if they served the Lord, they would go back to live with Him.

Sometime after they left the Garden of Eden a great blessing came to them. A dear little baby boy was born. Adam and Eve loved this baby and tried to teach him to do right. Other sons and daughters were born to our first parents. When the boys grew up they began to till the land, and to tend flocks. They had sons and daughters also, so that now there were quite a number of people upon the earth.

"Adam and Eve blessed the name of God, and they made all things known unto their sons and daughters." They showed them how to offer sacrifice; they told them to be baptized and serve the Lord in all things. But the evil spirit tempted many of them, and they loved "Satan more than God."

So when another baby boy was born to them, Adam and Eve rejoiced, and Eve said, "Surely he will serve the Lord." This baby boy was named Cain. Some time afterwards, Cain's baby brother, Abel, was born. How happy the father and mother were as they watched these little boys growing up, how hopeful, too, that both of them would serve God. Abel was obedient

to his parents. He prayed to the Lord, and tried to do what was right. This made Adam and Eve very happy, but Cain brought only sorrow to them. He would not pray to God. He disobeyed his father and mother, and followed evil companions.

When these two boys, Cain and Abel, grew to be men "Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground."

Abel being a shepherd, went out on the hillside and took care of his flocks of sheep. During the day he found good pasture for them. He led them where they could find water to drink; he protected them from wolves and other wild animals. At night he brought them safe within the fold. And as he worked he "hearkened unto the Lord," His thoughts were pure and he lived a good life.

Cain was a farmer. He went out into the field and plowed the ground. Then he planted the seed. He watched the crop and took care of it until it was ripe, when he cut it down.

II. But Cain loved Satan more than God. And Satan commanded him, saying: "Make an offering unto the Lord." And "Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord."

Abel also brought an offering unto the Lord. He brought a little lamb as his offering, and he brought it with love and respect, to show honor to the Lord. But Cain brought his offering because Satan had told him to. Whose offering do you think was accepted by the Lord? Yes, Abel's; and when Cain saw that Abel's of-

fering was accepted and his was not, he became very angry. The Lord said to him: "Why art thou wroth? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."

III. The Lord then told Cain that if he did not repent, Satan should have power over him. But Cain paid no heed to this warning. Abel tried to help Cain to do right, but this only made him more angry and jealous. Abel had worked hard and owned large flocks. Cain envied him and desired to possess these flocks. The evil spirit tempted Cain by suggesting that if he were to kill his brother, he could get the flocks. "And Cain went into the field, and Cain talked with Abel, his brother. And while they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and slew him." This was not the impulse of an evil moment, but the result of yielding to the power of Satan many times before.

IV. Cain was punished very severely for what he had done. He became a wanderer upon the earth. The ground that he tilled was cursed, and would not yield unto him its strength. Cain cried out, "My punishment is greater than I can bear, and he that findeth me will slay me." But the Lord claims the right to take vengeance. He has said: "To me belongeth vengeance and recompense." So the Lord caused Cain's skin to become dark, "lest any one finding him should slay him."

"And Cain was shut out from the presence of the Lord, and with his wife and many of his brethren dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden."

Application: Every time we get angry it becomes harder for us to control ourselves. Why is it dangerous for us to get angry? How can we help bad tempers? Besides hurting someone else, how can we hurt ourselves? The more we think ugly, bad thoughts about other people, the more disagreeable and ugly we become ourselves. And sometimes a child's temper will grow so strong, if he does not check it, that he may do something while angry or jealous, that he will be sorry for all his life. Illustrate.

LESSON 4. MOST WONDERFUL CITY

Text: Genesis 5:18-24; Pearl of Great Price, Moses 6:21-68; 7.

Aim and Memory Gem: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

I. Enoch.

1. Descendant of righteous line through Seth.

II. The Call of Enoch.

1. The Lord appears.
2. Enoch's humility.
3. Called on a mission.
4. Made a seer.

III. Enoch's Missionary Work.

1. Preaches of Jesus who was to come.
2. How received.
3. Power given Enoch.

IV. The Building of Zion.

1. The people and the land blessed.
2. Unity—no poor—all pure in heart.
3. City of Holiness.

V. A Most Wonderful Vision.

1. The flood.
2. The coming of the Lord.
3. The wicked in prison.
4. God wept.
5. God's promises.

VI. Zion Fled.

1. God walked and talked with Enoch 300 years.
2. Took the city to Heaven.
3. Promise of return.

Point of Contact: What do we mean by pure water? By pure food? By pure air? Sometimes we speak of people as having pure minds and hearts. What do we mean by that? Today we are going to hear about a wonderful thing which happened to some people because they were pure.

Lesson Statement: I. We have told you of two sons of Adam and Eve, one of whom loved the Lord, the other being a very wicked man. Other children were born to Adam, among them a boy named Seth, who, like Abel, loved and served the Lord.

Now we shall tell you of one of his descendants, the seventh from Adam. His name was Enoch. He loved the Lord and served him so well that God blessed him in many wonderful ways—as He will bless us if we serve Him as Enoch did.

By this time there were hosts of men on the earth; most of them very wicked, and oh, how the earth had changed from the beauty and peace of the Garden of Eden, and all because of sin!

II. While Enoch was on a journey the Lord spoke to him saying: “My son, prophesy unto this people, and say unto them, repent, for thus saith the Lord; my fierce anger is kindled against this people” because of their sins. Enoch bowed to the earth and said: “Why is it that I have found favor in Thy sight? I am but a

lad. Besides I am slow of speech." God can qualify for missionary work all who love Him and are pure in heart, so He said: "Go forth, and do as I have commanded thee." "Behold my Spirit is upon thee." "The mountains shall flee before thee, and the rivers shall turn from their course."

The Lord told him to do a strange thing: to anoint his eyes with clay and wash them. Enoch had faith and did so and then beheld a most wonderful vision. He saw the spirits of all men and all things not visible to our eyes. God thus made him a Seer.

III. Enoch went forth calling upon the people to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, promising those who did so the gift of the Holy Ghost. He told them that God would send His Son, Jesus, to the earth who would die for them.

These things made the wicked angry, and they led their armies against Enoch, whom the good people had chosen as their leader.

So great was Enoch's faith that when he spoke the word of the Lord the earth trembled, mountains moved, rivers turned out of their course, and the roar of lions was heard out of the wilderness. The wicked, terrified, fled afar off.

IV. The people who accepted Enoch's teachings found favor before the Lord, and He blessed them and the land for their sakes. The people became united, each "loved his neighbor as himself;" there were no poor among them, and all became pure in heart. They built a city, which was called the "City of Holiness, even Zion," because all its people dwelt in righteousness.

V. The Lord showed Enoch one of the most wonderful visions ever seen—all that was to happen to the end of the world: The coming of the flood because of wickedness; the destruction of all but Noah and his family; the coming of Jesus in the meridian of time, when multitudes of people were again upon the earth, and again in sin; Jesus' ministry and crucifixion; and the wicked in prison waiting for deliverance. At one time when Enoch beheld the suffering and misery of the wicked, he saw that God wept, and Enoch said: "How is it that Thou canst weep, seeing Thou art holy?" And the Lord answered: "Behold these thy brethren; they are the workmanship of my own hands." They have been given "commandment that they should love one another, and that they should choose me, their Father; but behold, they are without affection." Because of their wickedness they would have to suffer punishment and "for this shall the heavens weep." Enoch also wept, but the Lord said, "Lift up your heart and be glad: and look." Then the Lord showed him how Jesus would come to save the people by dying on the cross. Our Heavenly Father gave Enoch a promise that after Noah the earth should never again be destroyed by a flood; that in the last days the Lord would come again, bring about the resurrection from the dead, and gather the righteous to a place He would prepare, even a Holy City, which should also be "called Zion, a New Jerusalem." The Lord said to Enoch: "Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there, and we will receive them into our bosom, and they shall see us; and we will fall upon their necks,

and we will kiss each other." "And for the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest."

VI. "Enoch and all his people walked with God, and He dwelt in the midst of Zion; and it came to pass that Zion was not, for God received it up into His bosom." Thus through right living, loving one another, being pure in heart, and obeying the Lord in all things, the people and their city were taken to heaven.

Application: Shall we belong to that later Zion, and be among those who "shall meet the Lord and Enoch's band triumphant?"

How must we live, then? Tell something of Enoch's life which shows that he was obedient to the Lord. What did our Heavenly Father show Enoch? What happened to the city of "Zion?" Why?

What promise has our Heavenly Father given to the pure in heart? Can you think of any little thing you can do now to keep your mind pure? What is one of the best ways to crowd out bad thoughts? How can you keep your hearts pure? What is one of the best ways to crowd out angry or jealous feelings toward our friends?

LESSON 5. WHY THE RAINBOW IS IN THE SKY

Text: Genesis 6, 7, 8, 9:1-17; Moses 8:15-30.

References: Bible Stories—Laura Ella Cragin.

Aim: Our Heavenly Father guides and protects those who obey Him and seek His counsel.

Memory Gem: “I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.”

I. Condition of the Earth and its People.

1. Wickedness.
2. God's displeasure.

II. Noah.

1. Descendant of Enoch.
2. Humble.
3. Obedient.
4. God's love for Noah.

III. The Flood Predicted.

1. The reason and effect of flood.
2. Noah to build an Ark.
3. Noah points out a way of escape.

IV. The Ark.

1. Noah shows his faith by his works—builds the Ark.
2. Stores it with food for man and beasts.
3. Noah, with “two and two of all flesh,” enters the Ark.

V. The Deluge.

1. Duration—40 days and 40 nights.
2. Depth of water.
3. Result.

VI. God Dries Up the Water.

1. Ark rests on land.
2. Noah sends out raven.
3. Sends dove—it returns.

VII. Noah Leaves the Ark.

1. Happiness and thanksgiving, with sacrifice.

VIII. God's Covenant.

1. The sign.
2. Significance of the rainbow.

Point of Contact: A certain man planned to make a most beautiful garden. He spaded the ground and raked it. Then he put in some fertilizer, that is some extra food for the plants to feed on beside that which they could get from the soil. After getting the ground in the very best condition, he planted his seeds and roots and bulbs, hoping they would grow up to be strong plants and shrubs, bearing the most beautiful flowers. The first which grew were strong, healthy and blooming, but after a while some ugly weeds began to peep above the ground. They grew and grew until they became larger and stronger than the beautiful plants.

Imagine how surprised and sorry the gardener must have felt when he saw these ugly things crowding out and killing his exquisite flowers, instead of the plants growing stronger and healthier and more beautiful and crowding out the weeds. Soon there were only a few

of the flower bearing shrubs left. He was so disappointed with his garden that he decided to clear the ground all out, and start a new one. He wanted to dig up and destroy everything in it—all except those few beautiful plants, that had been strong enough to hold their own against the weeds. He was proud of them and loved them. So he took them up, and set them safely in boxes of good soil, until he had prepared the ground again for a new and, he hoped, a much more beautiful bed than he had previously had. Then he took these plants from their boxes, and placed them the first ones in his new garden.

The Bible lesson we have today is very much like this little story, only it is about people instead of flowers. See if you can find the garden and the few sturdy plants which grew till the last.

Lesson Statement: I. Hundreds of years had passed since the Lord showed Enoch that there should be one of his descendants who should perform a very remarkable work, and it was now to be fulfilled. Noah was born. At this time there were many people living on the earth. They were all wicked except a few. These wicked people would not do as the Lord told them. They did not pray, nor go to meeting to worship Him upon the Sabbath day. They thought evil thoughts and did wicked things all the time. Their children were following their bad example. The Lord was very much displeased with them, and saw that He would have to punish them, in order to teach them to be good. So He decided, if they would not repent, to destroy them by sending a flood of water upon the earth.

II. There were eight good people on the earth at that time. They were Noah, his wife, their three sons—Shem, Ham and Japheth—and their wives. Noah loved the Lord and kept His commandments. He taught his children to speak the truth, to be always kind and loving, and to serve the Lord in all things. This pleased the Lord. He loved Noah and said He would remember his family.

III. One day the Lord told Noah He was going to destroy the world by a flood. He told Noah to build an ark, or large boat, in which he and his family could live while the earth was covered with water. Noah felt very sad when he heard that the people were going to be destroyed. He preached to them for many years, and pleaded with them to turn from their evil ways and to do as their Heavenly Father wished them. Noah continued his preaching unto the people, saying "Believe and repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, even as your fathers, and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost, that ye may have all things made manifest; and if ye do not this the floods will come upon you." But not one of them would obey him. They did not believe that a flood would come. No doubt some of them made fun of Noah, and thought him very foolish.

IV. But Noah believed what the Lord had told him, and he and his sons, set to work building the ark. They built one story, then another, and then a third, and they put on a flat roof to carry off the rain. They put windows in the upper story to give light, and a

door in the side. Then they covered the ark with tar to keep out the water.

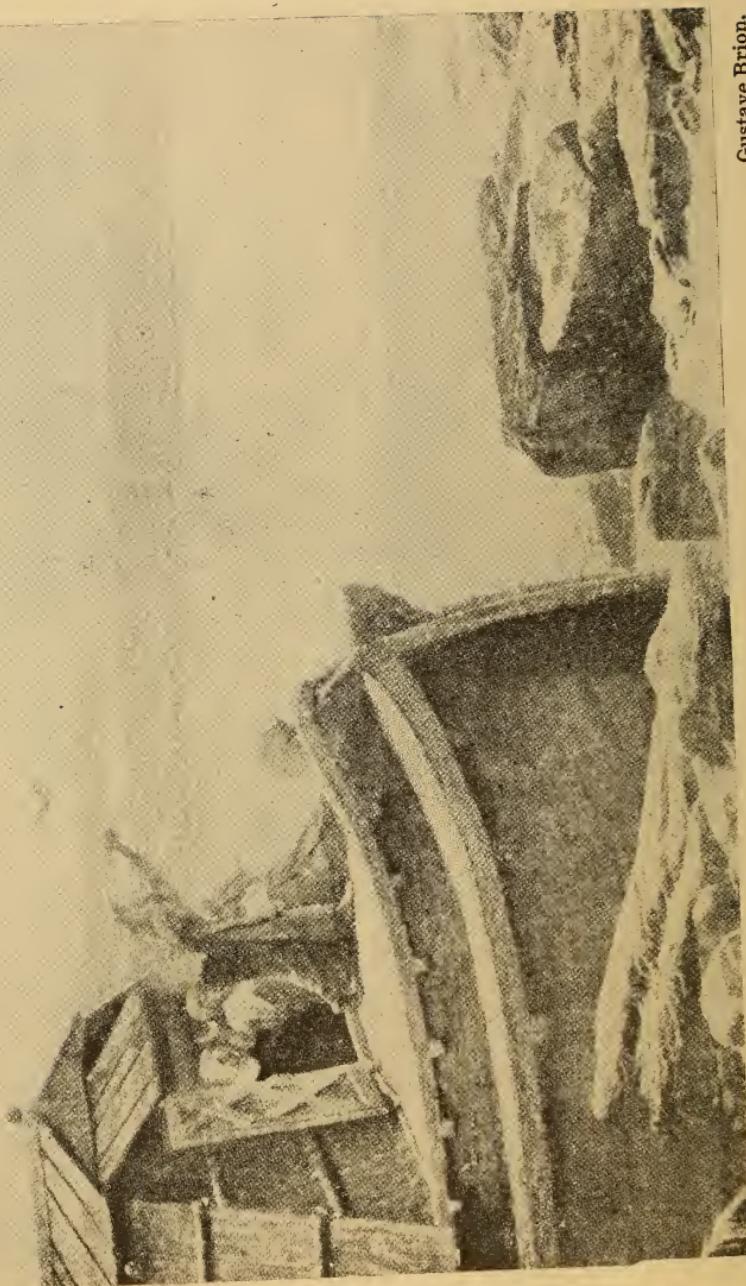
At last the ark was finished. It was as large as some of the steamers that are built these days. Noah and his sons then gathered food for themselves and their families, also for the birds and animals, and stored it in the ark. Then the Lord told Noah to gather the animals and to go into the ark.

V. A week later the sky became dark, then there were terrible peals of thunder, and soon after the rain began to fall. It fell gently at first, then faster and faster. When it had rained for several days the people became frightened. They felt that Noah had told them the truth, and that the flood was upon them. They wished they had repented, but now it was too late. For the Lord had shut the door of the ark and they could not get in. It kept on raining until all the houses were covered, then the hills, and at last the high mountains. It rained for forty days and forty nights, until nothing could be seen but water all over the earth.

VI. At length the rain ceased. Then the Lord sent a wind to dry up the water. Some time after the ark stopped floating. It had rested upon the top of a high mountain, called Ararat. Soon after that Noah sent forth a raven, but the bird did not come back. A week later he sent forth a dove, but the dove could not find a bush or tree to rest upon, so it returned to the ark. At the end of another week Noah sent out the dove again. This time it came back with a green leaf in its bill. That was a sign that the green leaves were growing again.

Gustave Brion.

The End of the Deluge



VII. At last Noah heard the voice of God say, "Go forth from the ark, thou and thy wife, and thy sons and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, both birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, that they may be fruitful and multiply upon the earth." How happy Noah and his family felt! How good it was to be on land again! The first thing that Noah did after coming out of the ark, was to kneel down with his family, and thank the Heavenly Father for taking care of them, while all the rest of the people perished. He also offered sacrifice to the Lord.

VIII. The Lord was pleased with Noah for this, and He promised that He would never again destroy the world by a flood. He placed the rainbow in the sky as the sign that He would keep His promise. He said to Noah: "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth."

Application: How many of you have seen a rainbow? Name some of the colors of the rainbow. For what purpose did the Heavenly Father place the rainbow in the sky? Why were Noah and his family saved? In what ways can children obey the Lord? By obeying mother in little things we learn to obey the Heavenly Father in greater ones.



Noah's Sacrifice

Daniel Machise

LESSON 6. HOW GOD ACCOMPLISHED HIS PURPOSE

Text: Genesis 11:1-9.

Aim: "Man cannot thwart the purposes of God."

Memory Gem: "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein."

I. Condition of the Earth After the Flood.

1. Cities and homes destroyed.
 - a. Choosing site for new home.

II. Building of the City.

1. Attitude of the people.
2. Dependence on their own strength.

III. Probable Reasons for Building Tower.

1. To reach heaven.
2. To make name for themselves.
3. Protection from flood.
4. Military defense.

IV. Construction of Tower.

1. Material.
2. Probable size and shape.

V. Confusion of Tongues.

1. The Lord's purpose.
2. Result.

Point of Contact: A man who had a large family of boys, owned a very big farm. It covered many miles, and within it were lowlands and highlands; pretty valleys, level plains, deep canyons, and high mountains.

He told his boys that he would give them this great farm, and he wanted them to cultivate the whole of it that could be cultivated; to make it as beautiful as they could, and use all of it for some good purpose, so their children, when the Lord should give them some, would have room to grow and build homes for themselves.

There was one particular spot which some of the boys thought would be the best place to build a house upon and live in, and they wanted all of the boys to join them in it, notwithstanding their father had advised them differently.

The site was a beautiful one on a high plateau, overlooking a valley, with a great river rushing part way around its base, and with a background of grand mountains, while a deep canyon opened directly upon the place for the building.

They did not stop to consider that dreadful winds sometimes came down from the mountains through this canyon, against which it would be hard to construct a building that would stand. Nor did they see that the river was cutting away its banks, and that in time the site chosen for the building, would be washed away by its mad waters.

The father warned them, and advised them to scatter out over the whole of the farm, but the boys commenced to build, confident of their own strength, believing themselves wiser than their father; and blind to the dangers he had pointed out or the advantages he had shown them in each getting a home of his own with plenty of land adjoining it. Perhaps they thought themselves so strong that they could prevent the wind from

damaging their house, or the water from undermining it.

Gradually the waters came nearer and nearer until the foundations of the house were weakened, and then one day there came a heavy wind and the house fell. Their labor was wasted.

Some of them then recognized that their father was wiser than they, and they sorrowfully went forth, some to one and some to another part of the great farm, where, after much toil they built for themselves beautiful homes, and in after years were glad, for when their children grew up there was room for the children to live near their parents. These felt grateful to their father for the counsel he had given them, and thanked their Heavenly Father for permitting the winds to blow, and the river to run, and thus prove to them they were not so strong and independent as they thought, and to enable them to realize that "the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." Others left the place unwillingly, and never got over their disappointment, but blamed their father for it, ungrateful even for the gift of that portion of the farm to which they moved.

How much better that the house fell before it was finished and they had moved into it—at least their lives were saved, which might not have been the case had they been in the house when it fell.

Lesson Statement: 1. After the flood the people had to begin life anew as it were. Their homes and their cities were destroyed, so all had to be rebuilt. They



Confusion of Tongues

Dore.

journeyed to the east until they came to a plain in the land of Shinar, where they decided to make their new home.

II. The Lord, desirous that a great part of the earth should be cultivated, wanted them to send colonies abroad, but, conscious of their own strength, and being of a disobedient nature, they would not.

III. In their unity they were mighty, a unity that would have accomplished wonderful and wonderfully good things, had it not been used in so foolish a purpose, for, they said, "Let us build a city and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven, and let us make a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth." It may be, too, that they thought the tower might prove a place of refuge from possible future floods. They appear already to have forgotten the Lord and the promise He gave in the rainbow. They may have thought it would aid them in military defense.

IV. Their city was soon builded, and their tower began to rear its head to a great heighth. Although we have no record of the dimensions and shape of this tower, it was probably like some other smaller ones in the same locality. One of these, Birsh Nimrod, was an oblique pyramid, built in several receding stages. Its base was two hundred seventy-two feet square, and total height one hundred fifty-six feet.

V. Now the Lord saw their disobedience and was much displeased. He desired the people to scatter over the face of the earth, build cities, till the soil and carry on His work as He had directed them. But they found it much easier to remain together and combine their efforts.

At this time the world was of one language and of one speech. Now the Lord confounded their speech, giving each a language understood only by himself. This of course forced them to stop building and in time they scattered over the earth, according to the Lord's plan.

Application: Do you sometimes want to go out doors when the weather is very cold, or a storm is raging? Do you not often think you know better than Mother, when she tells you to put on your coat or your rubbers? How much older is your Mother than you? Do you not think she has been in more storms than you have, and would therefore know better what things should be worn? Is it not worth while to listen to and obey our parents, who love us and know so much more than we? Who is wiser than all of us? Who loves us more than tongue can tell? Who sends the sun to warm us, the rains to cause our food to grow? Who is the Giver of all good? How can we show that we love Him and want to prove our love?

LESSON 7. WHAT A RIGHTEOUS MAN'S PRAYERS ACCOMPLISHED

Text: Book of Mormon, Ether 1, 2, 3; 6:1-13.

Aim: Our Heavenly Father hears and answers sincere prayers.

Memory Gem: "And thus will I bless thee, because this long time thou hast prayed unto me."

I. At the Confusion of Tongues.

1. Jared and his brother righteous.
2. Seek the Lord in prayer.
 - a. For themselves.
 - b. For their friends.
3. Prayers answered.
 - a. The Lord's instructions.
 - b. Promised blessings.

II. The Journey.

1. To the seashore.
2. Preparing to cross the ocean.
3. Eight wonderful vessels.

III. In the Promised Land.

1. Their gratitude.
2. Cultivate the land.

Point of Contact: Two weeks ago we heard a story telling how God protected a man and his family. Who was this man? (Noah.) Who was saved with him? How were they saved? What happened to the other people? Why were they destroyed? Why were Noah and his family saved? It seems as though God can always see the good people, even though they are surrounded by

the wicked, and He will help them if they ask him sincerely. Today we are going to have a story about a man whose prayers were heard.

Lesson Statement: I. Not all the people were disobedient at the time of the building of the Tower of Babel. In fact, some of them were very righteous and prayerful. Among these were a man named Jared and his brother. They had always served the Lord, and had been greatly blessed by Him. In their distress, as at all others times, they sought the Lord in prayer. At the time the people's language was changed, Jared asked his brother to "cry unto the Lord, that He will not confound us that we may not understand our words." "And the Lord had compassion upon Jared; therefore He did not confound Jared; and Jared and his brother were not confounded."

Then they prayed again to the Lord, asking Him this time, that the language of their friends and their families be not confounded. This prayer was answered also. We can imagine how thankful and happy were the little band of people. They were able to understand each other, to mingle together in their pleasures, their work, and their prayers.

Then they knew the Lord had a purpose in preserving their language. A third time the brother of Jared prayed unto the Lord, asking Him if they were to be driven from the land, and, if so, where they should go. And the Lord answered and said: "Go and gather thy flocks, both male and female, of every kind; and also of the seed of the earth of every kind; and thy families; and also thy brother Jared and his families; and

also thy friends and their families. And when thou hast done this, thou shalt go at the head of them down into the valley, which is northward. And there will I meet thee, and I will go before thee into a land which is choice above all the lands of the earth.

“And there will I bless thee and thy seed, and raise up unto me of thy seed, and of the seed of thy brother, and they who shall go with thee, a great nation. And there shall be none greater than the nation which I shall raise up unto me of thy seed, upon all the face of the earth. And thus I will do unto thee because this long time you have cried unto me.”

II. So, in obedience unto the command of the Lord, Jared and his family, his brother and his family, and their friends, about twenty-two in all, began their journey into the wilderness. They were guided by the Lord to the shores of the great ocean, where they lived for four years. Then, in obedience to God’s command, eight vessels were built, being made much like the submarine vessels now being used, as to shape and being water tight, even if they should go under the water. The Lord said: “For behold, ye shall be as a whale in the midst of the sea, for the mountain waves shall dash upon you. Nevertheless, I will bring you up again out of the depths of the sea.”

For light, the brother of Jared melted out of a rock sixteen small stones, making them clear and white, even as transparent as glass; and then asked the Lord to touch them that they might give light in the vessels: the Lord did so, and two of these stones were placed in each vessel. “And thus the Lord caused stones to shine

in darkness, to give light unto men, women, and children, that they might not cross the great waters in darkness." And this people crossed the ocean to America.

III. When they had landed, they bowed down and prayed to God, thanking Him for caring for them during the journey, and for bringing them in safety to the promised land, our own splendid land of America. They went forth on the face of the land and began to till the earth.

LESSON 8. A FATHER'S SACRIFICE

Text: Genesis 12:1-10; 18:1-16; 22. Pearl of Great Price, Abraham 1, 2.

Reference: Kindergarten Bible Stories—Laura Ella Cragin.

Aim: Implicit Obedience to God, brings great blessings.

Memory Gem: "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve."

I. Chaldeans (among whom Abraham lived).

1. Forget the Lord.
 - a. Worshiped idols.

II. Abraham.

1. Served the Lord.
2. Protected by Him.
3. Led to the promised land.

III. Visit of the Angels.

1. Entertained by Abraham.
2. Their promise to him.

IV. Birth of Isaac.

1. Child of promise.

V. The Offering.

1. The test.
2. Abraham's faith and obedience.
3. The blessing.

Point of Contact: The children's thoughts and emotions could be drawn to the aim of this lesson (trusting) by telling the following well known incident.

A boy was playing on a railroad track. He was so engrossed with his play, that he did not notice the approaching train, until it was nearly upon him. Then he was too frightened and bewildered to know what to do. His first impulse was to run, but it was too late in case he should trip. His father, at a distance, saw the situation just in time to shout, "Lie down!" The son dropped instantly, the train passed over him, and he was unhurt.

What would have happened if he had not have trusted his father? What would have happened if he had stopped even long enough to doubt and question?

Lesson Statement: I. Even though the Lord does bless His children so much, sometimes they forget Him and displease Him, because they listen to the wicked spirit.

A long time after the people had built the great Tower of Babel, and the Lord had scattered them in different lands, they again forgot Him. Not only did they forget Him, but they made other gods that they praised and worshiped. The people made these gods, or idols, out of wood, iron, gold or other things. Some were very ugly. Perhaps they would cut down a tree and make it into some ugly image. Of course, these idols were only made by man, so they could not see, nor hear, nor feel, nor talk, nor think, nor move, and yet these people listened to the wicked spirit so much, that they would bow down and worship them. They did not pray to their Heavenly Father, who could hear and answer their prayers, but they prayed to these idols, which could not even see nor hear them.

II. There was one man who would not bow down and worship the idols, even though all the people around him did. He listened to the good spirit. This man's name was Abraham, and he worshiped the Lord. He knew "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." The Lord was pleased with Abraham and loved him. But because Abraham would not worship the idols, the people got angry at him and sought to kill him.

One time these wicked people were ready to kill him. Abraham knew that the God he worshiped could hear and answer his prayers, so he prayed to our Heavenly Father to help him. Our Heavenly Father heard Abraham's prayer, and sent an angel to cut the cords that bound him and set him free.

The Lord did not want Abraham to live among this wicked people, so He told him He would lead him to another land, a promised land.

Abraham was rich. He had gold and silver, many cattle and servants. He took these and his wife and a few relatives and left that wicked land. He left his home and his people, so he could worship the Lord in the way he knew was right. He had a long journey. There were no trains and hotels then. He had to carry a great deal of food, and live in tents.

Abraham never forgot his Heavenly Father, and he built altars and offered sacrifices to Him. The Lord was with him and guided and instructed him. There was a famine, but the Lord told him where to go and what to do, to get food and safety.

At last Abraham and his company reached the land of Canaan—the promised land. It was a choice land—a land of rivers and flowers, of fruit and sunshine. The Lord told him to go out and look to the north, to the east, to the south and to the west, and all the land he could see should be his. The Lord also told him that he should have many relatives and that all good people should love him and call him “Father of the Faithful.”

III. After Abraham and his wife had lived in this promised land for many, many years, until, in fact, they were almost one hundred years old, a most wonderful thing happened to them.

One day as Abraham sat resting in the door of his tent, which was situated in a beautiful grove in the plains of Mamre, he looked up and saw three strange men coming toward him. He quickly arose and went out to meet them.

As he came up to them he saw, to his surprise and joy, that they were angels of God. His heart beat fast. Why had they come? What important message had they brought him? Abraham bowed down before his heavenly visitors, and welcomed them to his humble abode. He invited them to sit down in the shade of a tree while he washed their feet, and while his wife, Sarah, prepared them something to eat.

After having refreshed themselves with bread and butter, milk and meat, the angels said to Abraham: “Abraham, we have been sent by the Lord to tell you that your wife Sarah is going to become the mother of a baby boy.”

Abraham was so astonished on hearing the news, that he could not speak for some time. He just stood looking at the angel who had told him the glad tidings. He, however, believed all the angel said. On hearing the heavenly messenger tell her husband that she would be the mother of a baby boy, Sarah, who was inside the tent, laughed aloud. She could hardly believe that such a thing could come to pass, seeing that she was so old.

The angel heard Sarah laugh. He went to the door of the tent and said in a solemn voice, "Sarah, why did you laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Sarah felt ashamed at having doubted the truth of the angel's message.

IV. Days and weeks and months passed by. At last the time came that was spoken of by the angel, and to the great delight of Abraham and Sarah, a dear, sweet baby boy was born to them.

When the babe was eight days old he was christened by his father, and given the name of Isaac. The little one was the joy and delight of his parents. He had come to them as a special blessing from the Lord; they would take the greatest care of him, and teach him to become a wise and good man.

Isaac grew and became a fine, bright boy. He used to go out in the fields with his father and watch the sheep and cattle feed on the fresh grass, and the little lambs play in the warm sun. And when he would be returning, he would gather armfuls of sticks for his mother's fires.

V. And now I am going to tell you of a great trial which one day came to Isaac's father. The Lord said



Trial of Abraham's Faith

Dore

to Abraham, "Abraham, I want you to take your boy Isaac up to the top of a mount, and there offer him up as a sacrifice to me."

I cannot tell you how sad the good man felt when he heard these words. A terrible pain pierced his heart, and the tears began to run down his aged cheeks. What did he do? He simply bowed his head and said, "The Lord's will be done."

At the appointed time Abraham took Isaac and two other young men, and set out for the place where the sacrifice was to be made. Abraham had not told his son what the Lord had commanded him to do.

When they came to the foot of the mount, Abraham told the young men to remain there while he and Isaac went up to the top of the mount to worship the Lord.

As they were going up the side of the mount, Isaac said to his father: "Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" But Abraham could not tell his son even at that time. He placed his hand upon his head, and looking down into his sweet, innocent face, said: "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering."

At last the top of the mount was reached. Abraham built an altar of stones and placed fire and wood upon it. The dreaded moment had at last arrived. Abraham drew his darling boy to him, and with trembling lips told him that he was to be the sacrifice. The brave little fellow uttered not a word against the command of the Lord. He felt that God knew best. So he suffered his father to bind him and place him upon the altar.

Abraham raised his knife, and was just in the act of slaying his son, when the angel of the Lord called to him out of heaven, saying: "Abraham, lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."

Abraham looked around and saw in a thicket close by, a ram caught by the horns, so he went and got the ram and offered up the animal in the place of his son Isaac.

"And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Abraham and Isaac returned to their tent rejoicing, and told Sarah all that had taken place. She joined her husband in praising the Lord for sparing the life of his son.

Application: Why did the Lord so bless Abraham? (Because he worshiped and served Him.) What thing that Abraham knew should we and all the world remember? ("Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve.") What pleasure have you given up that you might do something you knew would be pleasing to the Lord? What have you been tempted to do on the Sabbath, which you knew would not please Him? Why wouldn't it?

LESSON 9. A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Text: Genesis 16, 21.

Aim: Prayer and submission to the will of the Lord bring comfort and protection.

Memory Gem: "Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is."

I. Hagar.

1. Sarah's handmaid.
2. Subsequently Abraham's wife.
3. Her unhappiness.
4. Receives comfort from the Lord.

II. Ishmael's Birth and Boyhood.

1. A promised son.
2. For fourteen years the only son.
3. His conduct towards Sarah.
4. Result.

III. In the Wilderness.

1. Journey towards Egypt.
2. Lost.
3. Saved by the Lord.

Point of Contact: Johnny was riding on his pony through the woods and became lost. It began to grow dark and he began to cry, but that did no good. Bowing his head on the pony's neck he prayed to our Heavenly Father to help him. Then he remembered at once that his father told him if he was ever lost, to loose the reins and let the pony take his own way. Soon they were out of the woods and on the way home.



Abraham Sending Forth Hagar Adrian Van Der Werff

Lesson Statement: I. Because Abraham was such a faithful and obedient man, God protected him and his family. Last Sunday we heard of a wonderful blessing that He gave to Abraham and his wife Sarah, and today we are going to hear of another remarkable thing He did for Abraham's other wife and her son.

Abraham had two wives. His first wife was named Sarah, the woman you heard about in the lesson last Sunday. His second wife was an Egyptian woman named Hagar.

This is how Abraham came to take Hagar to be his wife: Hagar was Sarah's maid. She had lived with Abraham and Sarah for a number of years. They liked her very much, for she had performed all her duties faithfully.

Abraham and Sarah were growing old. They had no children—that was many years before Isaac was born.

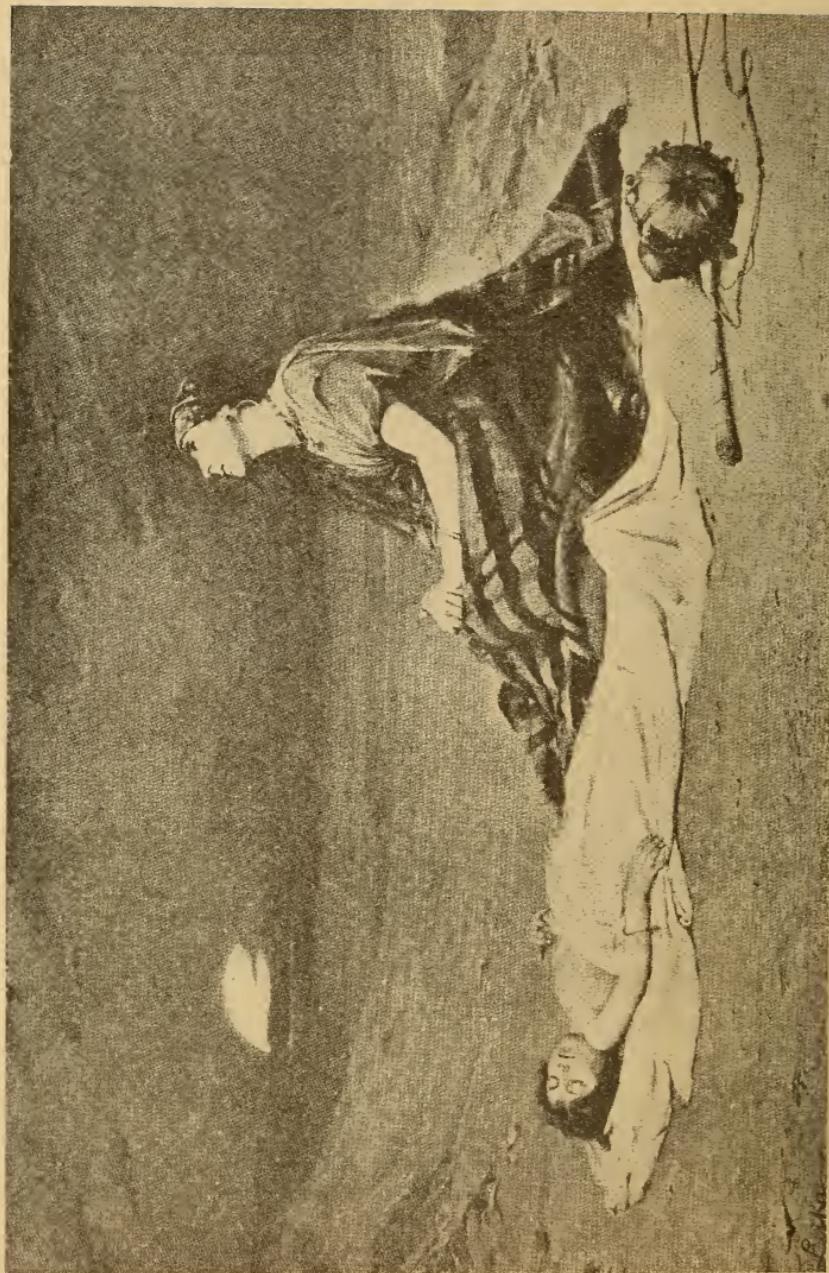
One evening as Abraham and Sarah sat together, Sarah said to her husband, "Abraham, I am very sorry that we have not got any children. I wish we had, if it were only one. I have thought seriously over this matter lately, and do you know what I have decided to do?" Abraham answered that he did not.

"Well," said Sarah, "I am going to give you my maid, Hagar, to be your wife. Perhaps we shall be blessed with children by her."

Abraham felt very happy when he heard what Sarah had decided to do, for he had often wished for children, too. So he took Hagar as his wife.

Some time after Hagar had become Abraham's wife,

Hagar and Ishmael in the Desert



she began to make fun of Sarah and to say unkind things to her.

Sarah's feelings were so terribly hurt that she told Abraham that Hagar would have to go and live in some other place.

Hagar started out to seek for a new home. After traveling for a long time she became tired and sat down to rest beside a fountain of water. She regretted having spoken unkindly to Sarah, and felt sorry for the trouble she had brought into the home.

She had sat looking into the water for some time, and as she raised her eyes, to her great surprise there stood beside her an angel of the Lord.

The angel asked her why she was in that place and where she was going. Hagar told the heavenly messenger what had happened. He comforted her by telling her that she would be blessed with a baby boy whose name should be Ishmael. He then told her to return to Sarah and Abraham, and to ask their forgiveness.

Hagar did as the angel commanded her. She was freely forgiven by Abraham and Sarah, and for many years they lived happily together.

II. The promise to Hagar was fulfilled, for a baby boy was born to her, whom they named Ishmael. When Ishmael was fourteen years of age, and soon after Isaac, Sarah's son, was born, trouble broke out again in Abraham's family. It was caused by Hagar's son making mock of Sarah.

Sarah told Abraham of Ishmael's conduct and requested him to send Hagar and her son to their own

people in Egypt. Abraham did not like to send Hagar away, but the Lord told him to do so.

Abraham arose early the next morning, and prepared food for Hagar and Ishmael on their journey, also a leathern bottle of cold, fresh water. When they were ready to start, Abraham bade them good-by, and Hagar and her son set out for Egypt.

III. They traveled for a long time. Then a serious thing happened—the mother and child got lost in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

To add to their misery, the water in the bottle was exhausted, and Hagar and Ishmael were almost perishing with thirst. It was a terrible trial to the poor mother to see her child suffering for a drink of water.

Ishmael began to cry piteously, and then Hagar broke down and began to cry also. The boy became so exhausted that the mother thought his end had come, so she laid him down, and went and sat down a distance off, that she might not see him die.

Then a wonderful thing happened.

The angel of the Lord called to Hagar out of heaven and said, "Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is." Then he told her to go and lift the lad and hold him in her arms. She did so. Then, to her great surprise, she saw, a short distance away, a well of water. She carried her darling boy to the well and quenched his thirst. After which she took a drink herself, and also filled the bottle. Then she lifted her voice in praise to God, for saving the life of herself and child.

The angel of the Lord told Hagar that God would bless Ishmael, and that He would make him a great nation, because he was a son of Abraham. All that the angel told Hagar has come to pass.

Application: It is very seldom that God answers a prayer by sending a beautiful light, or an angel, or a voice to tell us what to do. Sometimes the thing we are praying for may be near us, but we cannot see it, so God answers our prayers by opening our eyes or guiding us so that we can find what we are seeking. Johnny knew what his father had told him to do if he got lost on horseback, but he didn't remember it till after he had prayed. We think that the well of water was near Hagar, but she didn't see it till God, in answer to her prayer, guided her sight in that direction. Do you know anyone who has had a prayer answered in this quiet, natural manner?

LESSON 10. REBEKAH AT THE WELL

Text: Genesis 24, 25: 20-34.

Time: 1856 B. C.

Place: Canaan and Mesopotamia.

Aim: Trust in God brings happiness and success.

Memory Gem: "Blessed be the Lord."

I. Abraham's Desire for His Son.

1. A wife from among his own people.
2. Instructions to Eliezer.
3. Preparation and departure of the servant.

II. Evening at the Well.

1. Description of the watering places.
 - a. Mode of carrying water.
2. Eliezer's prayer.
 - a. The answer; appearance of Rebekah; her kindness.

III. The Servant at Rebekah's Home.

1. Hospitality extended.
2. Errand made known.
3. Rebekah's answer.

IV. Return to Canaan.

1. Meeting Isaac.
2. The marriage.

V. Birth of Esau and Jacob.

Point of Contact: As the children are somewhat familiar with missionary life, the following experience might be told to introduce the thought of the Bible story in the lesson:

Two Mormon elders who were doing missionary work in the Southern States, had been planning for a week or more, to leave the town in which they had been laboring and go to the town of R——. They started out early one morning to make the trip on foot. They were eager to begin work in the new field. After traveling several hours they came to a place where another road crossed the one on which they were walking.

To the surprise of his companion, Bro. M—— stopped and said that he felt guided to take the new road. His companion argued with him, trying to persuade him to go with him and do the work they had been planning for so long. But it was of no avail. Bro. M—— was determined, saying that he did not like to change his plans, but he knew that he was guided by the spirit of the Lord to go the other way.

So the two men shook hands and parted, one going to R—— as he had planned, the other following the strange road, trusting to be guided to the place where he felt that he must be needed. As he came to each intersection of the roads, he would hesitate till he felt sure of which road he was to take. He was finally led to what seemed to be a deserted house. It had once been a beautiful home, surrounded by handsome grounds. But there was no sign of life about it now.

But Bro. M——, feeling sure that this was the place to which he was sent, knocked at the door; and, getting no response, entered. There he found a man lying on the floor sick. It was one of the missionaries who had been laboring in another town.

When he saw Bro. M—— he cried eagerly, "I knew the Lord would answer my prayers by sending me help."

He had been traveling from one town to another when he was taken so ill that he had been forced to go in this deserted house to lie down. He became so much worse that he was not able to get up again. Bro. M—— administered to him. He was soon healed, and the following day they both started out to their labors again.

Lesson Statement: I. After Abraham had loved and served God for many, many years, and was getting old, he wished to see his son Isaac married before he died. But he did not want him to take one of the daughters of Canaan for a wife, as they were heathen, and he desired his son to lead a God-fearing life, such as he had led. He determined to send his servant back to his own country, Mesopotamia, to get a wife for Isaac from his own kindred. Abraham had perfect faith that the Lord would guide him aright, so giving his servant camels, money, jewels and men for companions he sent him on his journey.

II. After many days traveling he came to the wall of the city, and stopped on the outside by the well. The wells of this country were usually surrounded by a stone wall from which two or three steps led down to the water. Here in this peaceful, quiet place, just at sunset, the women of the city were used to come with their jugs on their heads to be filled from the well. Let us feel the beauty and peace of this scene, as the servant knelt in prayer for guidance in doing Abraham's bidding.

His supplication to the Lord was that He would make known unto him the maiden whom He desired to become Isaac's wife, by having her be the one who would offer him a drink and draw water for his camels.

Before he had done speaking, the beautiful maiden Rebekah, with her pitcher upon her shoulder, came out of the gates of the city and drew near the well. She went down to the well, and stooping, filled her pitcher with water; then raising it again to her shoulder, she came up the steps. The servant ran to meet her, and said: "Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher." And she said, "Drink, my lord," and she let down her pitcher upon her hand and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, "I will draw water for thy camels, also." She emptied her pitcher into the trough and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. In answer to his question, she told him of her parents, and the servant knew by what she said that the Lord had blessed his journey and brought him to Abraham's kindred. The man bowed down his head, and worshiped the Lord. He said: "Blessed be the Lord who led me to the house of my master's brethren."

III. Rebekah then told him there was plenty of straw for the camels, and room for the man to stay at her father's house. She ran ahead to announce his coming; Her brother Laban met him, and knew at once that he was blessed of the Lord.

The servant would not eat at their house until he had made known his errand, telling of Abraham's blessings at the hands of the Lord, and his desire for a



Eliezer Meets Rebecca at the Well

Dore

wife for his son Isaac. Then Laban and Bethuel said: "The thing proceedeth from the Lord; we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold Rebekah is before thee, take her, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the Lord hath spoken." The servant bowed himself before the Lord and worshiped Him.

Rebekah's parents were loth to part with her so soon, but she herself was willing to obey the word of the Lord at once, trusting completely. So with her maidens and servants she departed at once for the land of Canaan.

IV. As they came near to where Abraham lived, Rebekah lifted up her eyes and saw Isaac coming to meet her; and when the servant told Isaac all things that had been done, he took her into his mother's tent and made her his wife, learning to love her dearly.

They had been married a number of years, but no baby had come to bring joy to their house. That made Isaac and Rebekah feel very bad. They prayed often to the Lord about the matter.

V. At last the Lord answered their prayer by sending them two baby boys. The first baby that was born was called Esau. He was different to other babies. Almost all of his little body was covered with hair. His twin brother, who was born after, was given the name of Jacob.

Application: Upon what errand did Abraham send his servant?

How did he show his trust in God?

Tell about Eliezer meeting Rebekah.

What did the servant say when he found who Rebekah was?

How was Abraham's trust rewarded?

What blessings came to Rebekah because of her trust?

How do we show that we trust in our Heavenly Father?

LESSON 11. A SACRED PROMISE

Text: Genesis 28 to 33, inclusive.

Aim: To pay tithing is a blessing and a duty, and shows we desire to serve God.

Memory Gem: "Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give one-tenth unto Thee."

I. Jacob's Departure from Home.

1. Reason.
2. His trust in God.

II. The Dream.

1. The ladder.
2. The Lord's promise.

III. Jacob's Thanksgiving.

1. Anoints the stones.
2. Covenants to pay tithing.

IV. With His Mother's Kindred.

1. Received with joy.
2. Enters Laban's service.
3. Blessings earned.

V. Jacob's Return Home.

1. God's promises fulfilled.

Point of Contact: Talk with the children about the joy that comes from giving. Illustrate with an incident or get a child to do so. Also develop the idea of a gift being much stronger as an expression of gratitude than the mere verbal thanking.

This principle of giving could be applied to the giving of tithing by the teacher bringing ten flowers into the class which she could give to one child to hold. Then ask the child, "If I should give you those ten beautiful flowers, would you be willing to give me one back again?"

Lesson Statement: I. One day Isaac took his son Jacob out for a walk. They sat down in the shade of a tree. Then the father said, "My son, I want to speak to you about a very important matter. You are now old enough to marry. I want you to get a good wife, a woman who believes in God and keeps His commandments. I know where you can get such a wife." Jacob told his father that he would do just as he desired him to do. That made Isaac feel very happy.

He then told Jacob that he wanted him to go to the place where his mother's brother lived, and that there he would find a good, faithful wife.

A few days later the young man set out for the home of his uncle. I do not know how far it was, but it was quite a long distance. Jacob traveled all day. When evening came he was still on the desert. He was tired, so he decided to camp for the night. He washed the dust from his face and his hands. Then he knelt down and offered up his evening prayer to God.

II. When he had finished his supper, he selected for himself a place to sleep. His bed was the hard ground, and a large stone was his pillow. But, notwithstanding those things, that was the most blessed night in all of Jacob's life. Listen while I tell you what happened!

During the night, God gave to Jacob a glorious dream. The young man saw, in his dream, a ladder reaching from heaven to earth. On the ladder he saw angels. Some of them were going up to heaven and some of them were coming down.

As Jacob looked up to the top of the ladder, to his great delight he saw God. The Lord spoke to Jacob. He told him He was the God of his fathers, Abraham and Isaac, and that He would give to him all the land in that place. He told Jacob He would bless him with many children, and that they would spread about to the east and the west, the north and the south. The Lord also promised Jacob that He would be with him wherever he went, and that He would bring him again to that land.

III. When Jacob awoke he felt so happy that he shed tears of joy. Kneeling down upon the ground, he prayed with all his heart and soul unto God, thanking Him for the glorious dream He had given him, and for the precious promises He had made to him.

Then Jacob took the stone he had used for a pillow and made an altar of it. He poured oil upon the stone, and there he made a covenant with the Lord, saying: "Of all that Thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto Thee."

That is the law of tithing all faithful Latter-day Saints observe today.

IV. Let us see how our Heavenly Father blessed Jacob because of his faithfulness to this and other laws given by the Lord.



Meeting of Jacob and Rachel

William Dyce, R. A.

Jacob continued his journey to the land where his uncle Laban lived. There he met his uncle and family who received him with joy. Laban wanted Jacob to assist him with his flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. Jacob did so and served Laban fourteen years, receiving for this service Laban's two daughters, Leah and Rachel, who became his wives. Later he took two other wives, the maids of Leah and Rachel, and served many years, receiving cattle and sheep for his pay. Although Laban changed Jacob's wages many times, yet because Jacob served the Lord, the Lord blessed him, and he had many sheep, cattle, camels and servants. God also blessed him with children, of whom we will tell you some interesting things later.

V. "And the Lord said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee." So Jacob started on his return to his old home, where he would meet Esau, his brother, of whom he was afraid, and also his dear old father. His mother had died. He took his wives and his children, his maid-servants and his men-servants, his camels and his flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, but did not tell Laban, who was away from his home at that time.

When Laban learned that Jacob had gone, he was angry, and he took men with him and followed Jacob for a week intending to make him come back, but God warned Laban in a dream saying: "Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad." Laban finally overtook Jacob and chided him for leaving without bidding him goodbye, and without permitting him to kiss

his daughters and his grandchildren, or letting him send them away "with mirth and with songs." But, although Laban was angry, he said that God had warned him not to hurt Jacob. We will remember that when God told Jacob to go He said "I will be with thee," which means that he would protect him from harm. So Laban kissed them goodbye and returned to his home.

As Jacob went on his way he again saw angels and knew that God was guarding him. Do you know that God guards us too? His angels are around us, although we cannot see them, but they will guard us carefully if we do right.

Jacob feared that his brother Esau might still be angry with him, and want to harm him, so he sent messengers to tell Esau that he was coming with all his family and his flocks and herds. When these messengers returned and told Jacob that Esau was coming to meet him, bringing with him four hundred men, Jacob's fears increased, and he prayed to the Lord to protect him by softening Esau's heart toward him. He then sent a great present to Esau, many goats, camels and other animals.

That night Jacob was left alone on one side of a brook, where again he saw a heavenly being whom he would not let go until he gave him a blessing, keeping him all the night. The angel blessed Jacob and gave him a new name, that of "Israel," which means having power with God and man and prevailing.

When Jacob and Esau met it was with embraces and kisses, for the Lord had softened Esau's heart, and he was now glad to have his brother back again. Esau

asked Jacob what was meant by the sending of the animals ahead of him, and when Jacob told him they were a present for him, Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself," but Jacob insisted and Esau accepted the present.

Jacob continued his journey until he reached his old home, and God had surely been with him and that to bless.

Application: What did Jacob promise the Lord that he and his children would do? We are related to Jacob a long, long way back. Would you like to do what he promised the Lord he would do? What do we call this giving? If you should earn fifty cents, how much tithing would you pay? Where would you pay it? When you are old enough to earn ten dollars a week how much tithing will you pay?

How can we show our parents that we trust them?

How can we show them that we feel that they know what is best for us?

LESSON 12. TWO STRANGE DREAMS

Text: Genesis 37.

Aim: God protects those who love and trust Him.

Memory Gem: "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous."

I. Joseph the Son of Jacob.

1. Jacob's love for Joseph.
2. The coat of many colors.
3. Jealousy of his brothers.

II. Joseph's Dreams.

1. The sheaves in the field.
2. The sun, moon and stars.
3. Effect on his brothers.

III. Sold to the Ishmaelites.

1. Taken to Egypt.
2. His father's grief.

Point of Contact: Many Sundays ago we had a lesson about two brothers. (Cain and Abel.) One loved his Heavenly Father and his father on earth. He tried to please and obey them. How would they feel toward him? The other brother thought more about himself and what he wanted to do, and was jealous of his brother. What does that mean? Why was he jealous? What trouble came of it?

Today we are going to hear a story about some more brothers who had similar trouble, for almost the same reason.

Lesson Statement: I. Jacob was a good man and the Lord loved him and blessed him greatly. He gave him a number of children. Jacob was the father of twelve sons. I am going to tell you this morning about one of them. He was the son of Rachel, and his name was Joseph.

Joseph was the best of all his father's sons. Jacob loved him dearly. One day Joseph's father made him a present of a pretty little coat. It was not like the coats boys wear these days. Instead of being of one color it had many colors in it.

When Joseph's brothers saw him dressed in his pretty coat, they became jealous of him. They were cross with him and treated him unkindly.

II. One night as Joseph lay upon his bed, the Lord gave him a wonderful dream. He dreamed that he and his brothers were working in a field. They were binding sheaves of wheat. There were no reapers and binders in those days. In his dream Joseph saw his sheaf stand up straight. Then the sheaves which his brothers had bound, bowed down before his sheaf.

Joseph told his dream to his brothers. It made them very angry. They said to him in a scornful voice, "So you think some day you will preside over us?" Joseph did not answer them.

Soon after that, Joseph had another dream. He dreamed that the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down before him. The next morning he told his dream to father and brothers. Jacob was astonished. He said to Joseph, "Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

Schopin

The Despair of Jacob



None of them knew at that time what the dreams meant. But they later learned.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to see how his brothers were getting on. They were out on the desert tending their sheep. When they saw Joseph they said, in a mocking tone, "Behold the dreamer cometh!" Then they decided among themselves to kill Joseph. They were afraid his dreams would come true.

But the Lord was watching over Joseph, and He saved him from death. How did He do it? He put it into the heart of Reuben, one of Joseph's brothers, to plead with the rest of his brethren to spare Joseph's life. There was a deep pit near where they were camped. "Let us not shed our brother's blood," said Reuben, "but put him in yonder pit."

III. They agreed to that. So they took Joseph's pretty coat off him, and then they lowered him down into the pit. Had Joseph been left there he would have perished with hunger. But the Lord saved him. Soon after Joseph had been put in the pit, a number of merchants, riding upon camels, chanced to pass that way. They were going down to Egypt. On seeing the merchants, Judah, another brother to Joseph, said, "Let us sell Joseph to these merchants." To that they all agreed. Joseph was brought up out of the pit and sold to the merchants, and they took him to Egypt with them.

Then Joseph's brothers killed a young goat, and taking Joseph's pretty coat they dipped it in the blood. When they returned home, they showed the blood-stained coat to his father and told him they had found

it. Jacob burst into tears. "It is my son Joseph's coat," he cried. "Some wild beast has devoured him."

But Joseph was not dead. He was safe in Egypt. The Lord had preserved his life, for He had a great work for Joseph to do.

Application: How did our Heavenly Father protect Joseph?

Tell in what way He protects us if we trust Him and love and obey Him? Do you know anyone who has been protected by having their prayers for help answered?

LESSON 13. THE MAN WHO KNEW THE FUTURE

Text: Genesis 39, 40 and 41.

Aim: The Lord gives great wisdom and power to those who seek Him and are faithful.

Memory Gem: "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God * * * and it shall be given him."

I. Joseph in Potiphar's Household.

1. Potiphar buys Joseph from the Ishmaelites.
2. Recognizes Joseph's wisdom at once.

"The Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man."

3. Is made overseer—result.
4. Falsehood of Potiphar's wife.

II. Joseph in Prison.

1. Gained favor of keeper because the Lord was with him.
2. Interprets dreams of butler and baker.

III. King Pharaoh.

1. His dreams.
2. Sends for wise men.
3. Butler remembers Joseph.

IV. Joseph before Pharaoh.

1. Interprets dreams.
2. Advice to Pharaoh.
3. Joseph's wisdom recognized and he is made governor.

Point of Contact: How many of you children go to school? Why do you go? Who is there to help

you learn your lessons? Why do you come to Sunday School? The Lord wants us to learn to read and write, etc., and also learn of Him, so we will grow up to be very wise and good men and women. Would you like to learn how Joseph became very wise—wiser than anybody in Egypt?

Lesson Statement: I. When the merchants arrived in Egypt they sold Joseph to an officer of the king, named Potiphar. "The Lord was with him and he was a prosperous man." Even though a mere boy when separated from his people, he remembered his teachings and was faithful to the Lord. He lived among a people who worshipped idols, yet nothing influenced him in his worship of the true God. His superior wisdom was gained through his faithfulness and reliance upon the Lord. Potiphar at once recognized that all things prospered under his hands, and he gave him charge of all that he had.

One day Potiphar's wife told a wicked falsehood about Joseph. It made her husband very angry. He believed what his wife told him was true. So he gave orders for Joseph to be cast into prison.

II. But the Lord knew that Joseph had not done wrong. He comforted Joseph by His Holy Spirit, and softened the heart of the keeper of the prison so that he treated Joseph kindly. After a time Joseph was given charge of the prison and all the prisoners. Joseph was kind to the prisoners and they liked him very much.

There were two men in the prison who had been in the service of the king of Egypt. They were the king's

chief butler and chief baker. One morning found them looking very sorrowful. He asked them why they looked so sad. They told him it was because of dreams which they had had. They could not find anyone who could interpret their dreams.

Joseph told them that interpretations of dreams came from the Lord. He asked them to tell him their dreams. They did so.

The chief butler told Joseph that in his dream he saw a vine with three branches of grapes upon it. He had a cup in his hand. He pressed the juice of the grapes into the cup and gave it to the king.

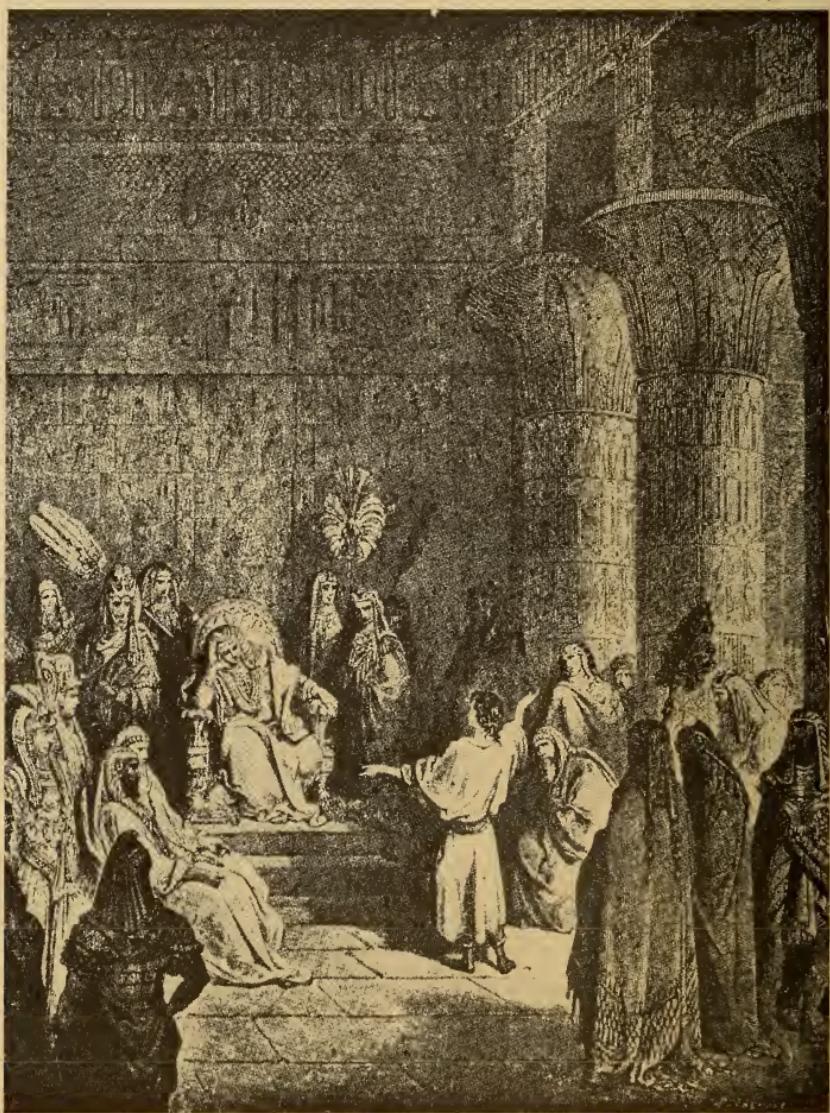
The Lord gave Joseph the interpretation of the dream. He told the butler that in three days he would be taken out of prison and made again chief butler to the king.

Then the chief baker related his dream, and Joseph gave him the true interpretation of it.

At the end of three days the butler was released from prison and taken back to the king's service.

III. Some time after that, the king had two dreams. In his first dream he saw seven fat cattle come up out of the river and begin to feed in a meadow. Then he saw seven lean cattle come and kill and eat the fat ones. In his second dream he saw seven good, full ears of corn come up on one stock. Then there sprung up seven poor, thin ears, and the thin ears ate up the seven good, full ears.

The king called to him all his wise men, but none of them could interpret the dreams. Then the chief



Joseph Interpreting Pharaoh's Dream

Dore

butler remembered Joseph. He told the king about him, and the king gave orders for Joseph to be brought to him.

IV. The king told Joseph the dreams which he had, and the Lord gave Joseph the interpretation of them. He told the king that the seven fat cattle and the seven full ears of corn represented seven years of plenty, and the seven lean cattle and the seven lean ears of corn represented seven years of famine. How much wiser men are who have the Holy Spirit, as their teacher, than all others.

Joseph advised the king to appoint a wise man as governor over the land of Egypt, and to give him authority to appoint officers to buy up all the wheat they could get during the seven years of plenty, that the people might have bread during the seven years of famine.

The king was pleased with Joseph's interpretation of his dreams and with the suggestion he had made. To the surprise of all the people, the king appointed Joseph governor over all the land of Egypt. There was no one in the land so great as Joseph except the king himself.

Application: Why was Joseph given such power? Who gave him his great wisdom? Why did the Lord bless him with wisdom? Yes, he was faithful and relied upon the Lord. We read in the Bible: "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God * * * and it shall be given him." Who can help us to become wise? What must we do to be so blessed?

LESSON 14. THE DREAMS FULFILLED

Text: Genesis 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47:1-13.

Aim: Forgiveness and mercy are attributes of a noble mind.

Memory Gem: "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you."

I. Condition of Egypt.

1. During seven years of plenty.
2. During seven years of famine.
3. Compare with other countries.

II. Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt.

1. Recognized by Joseph.
2. Imprisoned as spies.
3. Joseph's request for Benjamin.
4. Their remorse shown.
5. Simeon held in prison.

III. Jacob's Sons Return Home.

1. Their sacks filled with corn and money returned.

IV. Second Journey to Egypt.

1. Benjamin accompanies them with presents.
2. Their obeisance to Joseph.
 - a. Fulfilment of dreams.
3. The feast.
 - a. Joseph's love and forgiveness.

V. Joseph's Plan to Detain His Brothers.

1. The silver cup.
2. Judah's humble supplication.

VI. Joseph Reveals Himself.

1. He confronts his brothers.
2. Testifies to God's providence.
3. Sends for Jacob and his family.

VII. Jacob Comes to Egypt.

1. Meeting with Joseph.
2. Second dream fulfilled.
3. The king's kindness.
4. A home in Egypt.

Point of Contact: Which would you like best, a person who is kind or one who is angry and mean? How do you treat kind people? How do you treat mean people? Have you ever seen a person be kind to some one who was unkind to him? Tell us about it. It is easy to treat nice people kindly, but very hard to treat mean people kindly, yet Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you." When Joseph was a little boy, who hated him and were his enemies? What very cruel thing did they do to him? Today we will learn how Joseph treated his enemies, and I am sure we shall love him more than ever.

Lesson Statement: 1. The dreams which Pharaoh had came true. For seven years the farms yielded very heavy crops. Joseph had many large granaries built and filled with corn.

The next year the crops failed. The same thing happened the six following years. All the corn the people had saved was used up. There was none to be found except in the granaries of Pharaoh in Egypt.

Joseph's father and brothers began to suffer because of the famine. On hearing that there was corn for sale

in Egypt, Jacob, Joseph's father, decided to send his ten sons down there to buy some. He would not let Benjamin go with them. He said he was afraid of losing him, as he had lost Joseph. He did not know that Joseph was alive; neither did Joseph's brethren know that he whom they had sold to the merchants, was at that time governor of Egypt.

II. When Joseph's brothers appeared before him he knew them, but they did not know him. He asked them why they had come to Egypt, and they said for the purpose of buying corn. He made them believe that he looked upon them as spies. They declared they were not spies. They said they were the sons of a man named Jacob, who was living in the land of Canaan. They had a brother, Joseph, but they did not know what had become of him. There was a younger brother, named Benjamin, at home with their father.

Joseph pretended that he did not believe what they said. He charged them with being spies, and ordered them to be put in prison. They were kept in prison three days. During that time they thought of their past lives. They remembered the shameful way in which they had treated Joseph, and felt that God was punishing them for their unkindness to their brother.

When they had been in prison three days, Joseph came to them. As he looked upon his brothers pleading before him, his heart was touched, and he went into another room and wept. Then he returned and gave orders for one of their number—Simeon—to be bound. "In order to prove that you have told me the truth," said Joseph to his brethren, "I will keep your brother

Simeon here till you go back home and bring down your brother Benjamin."

III. Joseph told one of his servants to fill their sacks with corn, and to put the money which they had brought for the corn in each sack also; to provide them with food for the return journey.

On the way back, Joseph's brothers stopped to refresh themselves and feed their animals. When they opened their sacks and found their money in them they were greatly frightened. They thought the governor of Egypt would charge them with being dishonest.

When they told their father what had happened to them he wept bitterly. He declared that he would not let Benjamin go away from him. "My boy, Joseph," said he, "is gone, Simeon is not with me, and if I were to let Benjamin go I might never see him again."

IV. But after a time, when their food was almost exhausted, Jacob agreed to let Benjamin go down with his brethren to Egypt. He also sent double the amount of money with them.

When Joseph's brethren appeared before him the second time, he told his servants to take them into his own home. Then he gave orders for Simeon to be brought out of the prison. When Joseph stood before his eleven brothers they all bowed down before him. At that moment he saw the fulfilment of his dream—in which he had seen his brothers' sheaves of corn bow down before his sheaf. He was so overcome that he had to retire to another room, where he gave vent to his feelings in tears. When he had recovered himself, he returned and instructed his servants to prepare a

great feast for the strangers. From that time Joseph talked freely with his brethren, and treated them with the greatest kindness, but he did not tell them he was their brother. He kept that piece of news for a later occasion.

Joseph longed to see all the members of his father's household, so this is what he did in order to get them to come down to him in Egypt. The morning after the feast he told his servants to fill his brothers' sacks full of food, and to put the money which they had brought in the sacks also.

V. Joseph had a beautiful, silver cup which he prized very highly. He told one of his servants to put the cup in Benjamin's sack. Benjamin was the youngest son, and Joseph's own brother, and he loved him dearly.

After his brethren had started for home, Joseph sent one of his servants after them, to charge them with having stolen his silver cup. When the servant stopped them and told them why he had come after them, they stared at him in astonishment. They declared that such a thought as stealing anything belonging to the governor, had not entered their heads. So sure were they of their innocence that they told the servant he could search their sacks, and if he found the cup, the one in whose sack it was found should be put to death, and the others would return and become servants to the governor.

Each man took down his sack and opened it. One by one the sacks were searched. At last the servant came to Benjamin's sack, and there, to the surprise of all, the cup was found.

In anguish of soul they remounted their camels and returned with the servant to the home of the governor. Joseph pretended to be very angry, and charged them with stealing his silver cup. They all fell down before him and offered to become his servants.

But Joseph said, "God forbid that I should do so; but the man in whose hand the cup is found shall be my servant; and the rest of you may go in peace unto your father."

Then Judah began to plead with Joseph. He said. "O my lord, let thy servant speak. Our father is an old man, and Benjamin, this lad, is the child of his old age. His brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loves him. When we return to thy servant, our father, and the lad be not with us, it shall come to pass that he will die, and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of our father to the grave. Therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad, a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren."

VI. As Joseph listened to the pleading of his brethren, and as he heard them tell of his dear old father, he could not disguise himself longer. He burst into tears and exclaimed, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold to the merchants. I freely forgive you for all your unkindness to me, for God did send me before you, to preserve life, and He has brought good out of evil. Return and tell my father that I am still alive, and that I want him and all his household to come to me. Now the famine will last five years more, but none of you shall want, for I have plenty, and you



Joseph Making Himself Known to His Brethren

Dore

can all come and live here and we will be happy together." Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers, and they all rejoiced together.

Pharaoh, the king, was pleased when he heard of the visit of Joseph's brethren. He told them he would be pleased to have them bring their father and their families, and take up their abode in his country. He said they could pick out the choicest part of the land, and that they could have all the food they needed and many other good things. The king offered them the use of his wagons in which to bring down their families, and their household effects.

With joyful hearts, and with many valuable presents, they returned to tell their father the glad tidings. When Jacob heard that his son Joseph was alive and that he was governor of Egypt, he shed tears of joy and gave thanks and praise to God.

VII. Jacob and his sons, with their wives and children and all that they had, set out for Egypt. There were about seventy souls in all. It was a long journey and they would have to camp many nights under the stars, before Jacob could behold the face of his beloved son Joseph again.

While they were still in the land of Canaan, the land, you know, to which Abraham had been led so long before, our Heavenly Father appeared to Jacob in a dream and gave to him a promise. The Lord said to Jacob, "Fear not to go down into Egypt for I will there make of thee a great nation. I will go down with thee into Egypt and I will surely bring thee up again." So Jacob continued his journey with a heart

filled with rejoicing. On hearing that his father and his brethren were coming, Joseph got into his chariot and went out to meet them. "O, my father! My father!" he exclaimed, as he came up to his aged parent and the father cried, "Joseph, my son, my son!"

They locked themselves in each other's arms and wept for joy. Then they all bowed down before Joseph, and thus was his second dream fulfilled.

Joseph's father and brothers received a royal welcome from King Pharaoh, and were soon living in happy homes in Egypt.

Application: Which do you think was best, Joseph or his brethren? How did Joseph treat them when he had a chance to "get even?" What did he do that Jesus wants all of us to do? ("Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you.") If we remember Joseph, how will we treat those who are unkind to us? If some one should speak crossly to you, how could you answer him? If a playmate should strike you, what could you do? If he should do anything that was mean how could you treat him? Which, then, would be the best and bravest? How do you think the naughty playmate would feel?

LESSON 15. A CRADLE IN A RIVER

Text: Exodus 1, 2:1-10.

Aim: God protects and blesses His children when they have faith in Him.

Memory Gem: "Look up, nor fear, for God is near and providence is over all."

I. Condition of Israel in Egypt.

1. Under new king.
2. Bondage.
3. Increase.
4. Feared by Pharaoh.
5. Pharaoh's decree.

II. The Baby Moses.

1. The family.
2. Joy and fear in home.
3. Hidden in home for three months.
4. The ark.
 - a. How made.
 - b. Where placed.
 - c. Watched by Miriam.
5. The princess.
 - a. Finds the ark.
 - b. Loves the babe.
 - c. Wants him for her own.
6. The nurse.
 - a. Miriam's wit in securing.
 - b. Who the nurse was.
 - c. Her joy and thanksgiving.

III. The Childhood of Moses.

1. Mother's care and teachings.
2. Advantages of the palace.

Point of Contact: How many of you have little babies in your home? Who sent them to us from heaven? How many love them? Oh, we all love little babies. We would not part with them for all the money in the world. How sorry we all are if baby is sick or even if he cries ever so little. Who cares for your baby? What does mamma do for baby? Some one else loves baby—someone we cannot see, but who sees us. Who is it? Heavenly Father loves babies, and will keep on loving them when they are grown, just as he loves us. I think every night our mammas kneel down and ask Heavenly Father to help them take care of their dear children, and He hears their prayers and blesses and protects us.

Lesson Statement: I. Once there was a little baby who was in very great danger caused by a wicked king.

When Jacob and his family came to live in Egypt, there were less than one hundred of them, but as the years passed they increased until they became very numerous. Joseph lived to be a very old man and when he died he reminded the people of the promise our Heavenly Father had made, to bring them out of the land of Egypt and lead them back to Canaan. Joseph said unto his brethren, "God will surely visit you and bring you out of this land unto the land which He sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." This prom-

ise made to Jacob so long before was a great comfort to them.

After Joseph's death a new king became ruler in Egypt. He was called Pharaoh also. By this time the few people who came with Jacob, or Israel, to Egypt had "multiplied and waxed exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them." They were called the children of Israel, because they were the children of Jacob who was also called Israel. The new king said, "The children of Israel are more and mightier than we," and he was afraid that if a war were to arise, this people would join the enemy of the Egyptians and fight against them. So this king and the people of Egypt made slaves of the children of Israel, and they had to work very hard, and were treated cruelly by those placed over them. But our Heavenly Father had promised Jacob that his children should become a great nation, and the more the Egyptians "afflicted them the more they multiplied and grew," for our Heavenly Father was watching over His people and He blessed them through all their sorrows.

When King Pharaoh saw that the people were becoming greater each year, he sent out a decree that all the baby boys born to the Israelites should be put to death, but the nurses saved the lives of many baby boys, and God blessed them for so doing.

II. There was a baby born at that time who became one of the greatest men the world has ever known. For three months after his birth his parents kept him hid, lest the wicked king might hear of him and have him put to death.



Moses in the Ark

Paul Delaroche

When they saw it was impossible for them to keep his birth a secret longer, they sat down to think out a plan by which they might be able to save the baby's life. I am sure they prayed to God to help them.

Not far from the home of these good people there flowed a very large river. It was called the Nile. Almost every day the daughter of King Pharaoh came down to the river to bathe. The baby's parents had often seen her go down to the river. They thought that perhaps they could get her to save the baby's life.

The baby's mother went down to the banks of the river and gathered a bundle of bullrushes. Out of these she made a little ark, or boat, which she plastered with pitch to keep out the water. When the ark was finished the baby was tucked snugly in it. The mother, accompanied by her little daughter Miriam, went down to the river and placed the ark in a small pool.

What sublime faith Jochebed must have had in our Heavenly Father! All those powerful influences against her, and yet with the Lord's aid she was able to out-wit them! She must have had a prayer in her heart continually for guidance, as she made the ark and while it was on the river; she had implicit trust in our Heavenly Father to protect her babe, not only from those who would take his life, but also from the dangers of the river, winds, sun, crocodiles, etc.

Miriam was told to hide in the bushes, and keep watch over her baby brother. The mother placed a kiss on the cheek of her sleeping babe and went back to her home.

Miriam sat in the bushes, her eyes fixed on the little boat in which her baby brother was sleeping peacefully. In a little while she heard footsteps, and on looking up she beheld the king's daughter and her maids, coming to the river for their morning bath.

As they drew near, her heart began to beat fast. "I wonder if they will see the ark" she asked herself. The words had barely escaped her lips when Pharaoh's daughter exclaimed, "Oh look at the little boat! Go," she said to her maid, "and bring it to me!"

The ark was brought, and when the little covering was lifted, a sweet babe opened its eyes and began to cry.

That cry was heard in heaven. It sank down into the heart of the princess, and made her love him and want to keep him instead of harm him. "You dear little baby," said she, "You shall be my own child."

Just then the baby's sister came out of the bushes. She approached the ladies and bowed politely before them. The king's daughter said to her, "Do you know, little girl, where I could get a good, kind woman, who could nurse and take care of this baby for me?"

"I am sure my mamma would be pleased to do so," said Miriam, "and, if you so desire, I will go and get her for you."

The king's daughter told Miriam to go and bring her mother. When the good woman arrived, the king's daughter said to her, "Here is a baby boy we found on the banks of the river. I am going to adopt him as my own child. If you will take him home and raise him for me I will pay you well for your services."

The woman said she would gladly do so. The king's daughter kissed the babe and placed it in the arms of its mother, who bore it home rejoicing.

Jochebed's faith was surely rewarded when the princess asked her to nurse him and care for him until he could come to the palace. She certainly rejoiced and thanked the Lord for His goodness. Now she could teach her babe all about the true God, could tell him about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. At night she taught him to kneel down and pray to the Heavenly Father who had cared for Him.

III. The child grew rapidly. Pharaoh's daughter came to see him often, and brought him many presents. He was given the name of Moses, because he was taken out of the water.

When he was grown "she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son."

The palace was very large and beautiful, and Moses had many servants to wait upon him. He rode in a beautiful chariot, and people bowed to him as they did to the princess. He sailed with her in a wonderful golden boat while lovely music was played upon harps, flutes or guitars. The princess wanted him to be wise and brave, so learned men taught him to read and write, taught him of the sun, moon and stars, perhaps to play on the harp and build wonderful houses. He never forgot, however, the true God and all the beautiful stories his mother had told him, and when all in the palace were worshiping idols, he always prayed to his Heavenly Father who had protected him.

Application: Why did Jochebed put the little boat on the river? In whom was she trusting? That trust we call faith. How was her faith rewarded? Let us learn to "Look up, nor fear, for God is near and providence is over all." What are some dangers that we might some day be in? What could we do if we were in danger?

LESSON 16. A MIGHTY LEADER

Text: Exodus 3, 4.

Aim: When we put forth our best efforts to serve God, He will help us to succeed.

Memory Gem: "I will be with you, and teach you what ye shall do."

I. In the Land of Midian:

II. The Voice of the Lord.

1. The burning bush.
2. Called to deliver Israel.
3. The rod.
4. The call of Aaron.

III. Moses returns to Goshen.

IV. Elders accept Moses and Aaron.

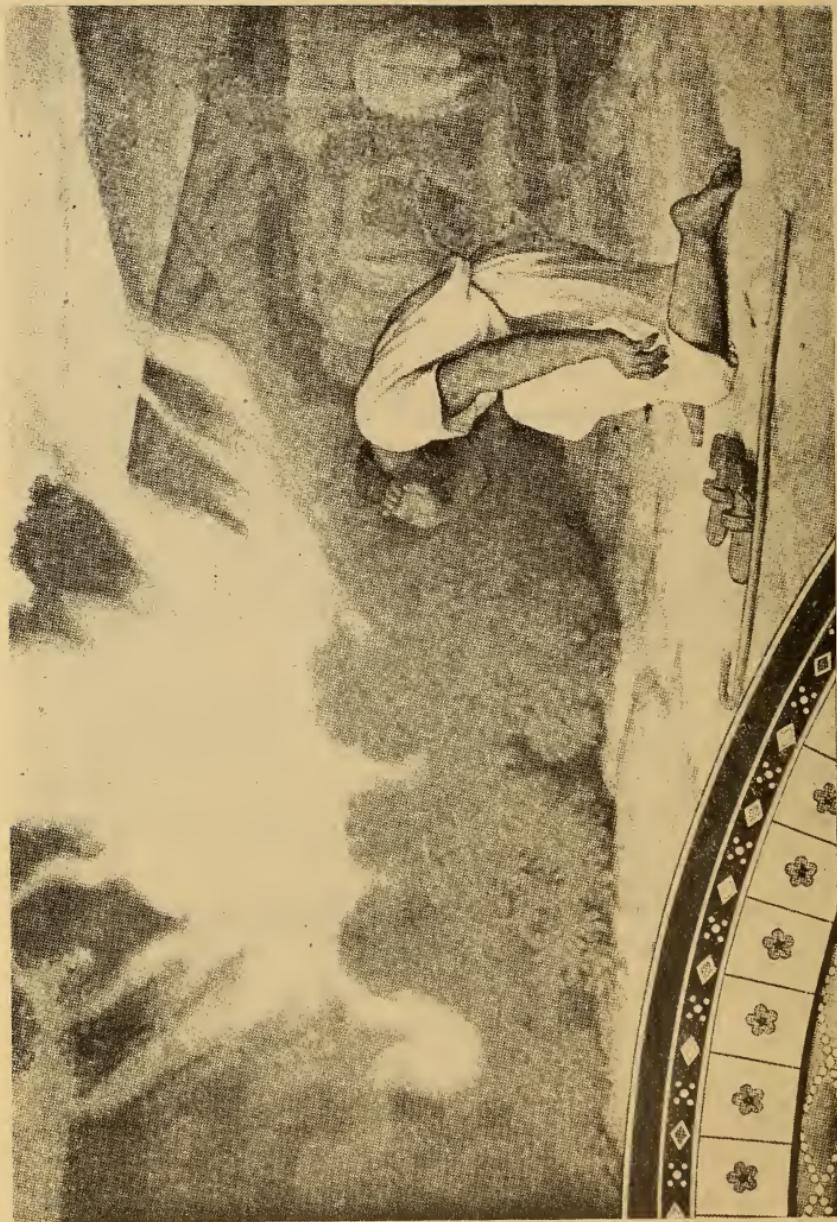
Point of Contact: What is the hardest thing you have ever done? Perhaps you just tried and tried to do it. Did you succeed? How did you feel? Baby Moses, when he grew up, had something very hard to do. We shall find how he succeeded.

Lesson Statement: I. When Moses had grown to be a young man, he left the palace of King Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian. There was a priest in Midian by the name of Jethro. He had a number of beautiful daughters. One of them was named Zipporah. Moses fell in love with her and in the course of time married her.

II. I am now going to tell you of a wonderful thing which happened to Moses. He had been out for a

Mural Painting

Moses and The Burning Bush



number of days on the desert, tending the sheep of his father-in-law. On one day of which I am going to speak, he was camped at the foot of a mountain, called Mount Horeb.

As he looked round he saw a strange sight, the like of which he had never seen before. A short distance from him was a bush, which seemed as if it had caught fire. Moses arose and went toward the burning bush. You can imagine how surprised he was when he got near it, to see that it was not burning.

As he stood gazing at the strange sight, a voice spoke to him, seemingly from out of the midst of the bush. It was the voice of the Lord. That which Moses thought was fire was the glory of the Lord. The Lord said to Moses, "Moses, put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Yes, that place was holy, because the Lord was there. It is the same with our meeting houses. They are holy places, where we meet to worship God, and we should have the greatest respect for them.

Now, what do you think the Lord wanted Moses to do? He wanted him to go back to Egypt and deliver the Hebrew people from the cruel bondage of the Egyptians. You were told in the last lesson how the wicked king of Egypt had ordered that all the baby boys born to the Hebrews should be put to death. That was only one of his cruel acts. The Hebrews were afflicted by the Egyptians in many other ways.

When Moses heard the great mission which the Lord wanted him to perform, he began to feel very nervous and weak. He could not see how he could per-

form such a great work. He did not seem to realize that the Lord was going to help him. With the Lord helping him, he might have known that he could have done anything.

But when he was told to go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them that the God of their fathers had seen their afflictions, and would bring them out of Egypt unto a land flowing with milk and honey, he answered and said, "But behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice; for they will say, the Lord hath not appeared unto thee."

"And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, a rod. And He said, cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. The Lord said unto Moses, put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and he caught it and it became a rod in his hand." Moses was told to perform this miracle before the children of Israel that they might believe that the Lord had appeared unto him, and had called him to be the leader of Israel.

Moses still complained that he was slow of speech, and that, perhaps, the Egyptians would not listen to him. The Lord said He knew that Moses was not a great preacher. He had, therefore, selected Aaron, Moses' elder brother, to go with him and to speak for him. He said to Moses, "I will go with you, and I will teach you what ye shall do."

III. Moses went to Jethro, his father-in-law, and said unto him, "Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt. And Jethro said

to Moses, "Go in peace. And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt; and Moses took the rod of God in his hand."

IV. Aaron came to meet Moses, and when he had been told all the works of the Lord, they went to Egypt and gathered together the elders of Israel; "and Aaron spake all the words which the Lord had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed" and "they bowed their heads and worshiped."

Application: Young men are sent out as missionaries by our Church today, and they have great missions to perform. They succeed if they put forth their best efforts. What tasks do you have to do in day school? In Sunday School? At home? In order that you might perform them well what could you do?

LESSON 17. A KING'S POWER OVERTHROWN

Text: Exodus 5:1-4; 7:14-25; 8:1-15; 12 and 14.

Aim: The power of the Lord is manifest in behalf of His people when they strive to serve Him.

Memory Gem: "I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously."

I. Moses and Aaron see Pharaoh.

1. Deliver God's message.
2. Pharaoh's hardness of heart.
3. God's promise to make Pharaoh obey Him.

II. The Plagues.

1. The river changed.
 - a. Same river that Moses when a babe had been put on—Nile.
 - b. Turned to blood for seven days—fish dead.
2. Frogs.
 - a. Everywhere—in houses, beds, dough, etc.
 - b. Pharaoh's promise and deceit.

III. The Tenth Plague.**IV. The Passover.**

1. The Lord's instructions to Israel.
2. Purpose.
3. How eaten—in readiness for journey.
4. Wail of Egyptians from palace to hut.
5. Pharaoh tells people to go—afraid of the Lord.

V. The Lord's Guide to Israel.

1. Departure.
2. Pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.

VI. Crossing the Red Sea.

1. Pharaoh's repentance.
 - a. Pursues Israel with his army and chariots.
2. Israel's predicament.
 - a. Hemmed in by mountains and sea.
 - b. Gained on by well trained army.
3. God makes Egypt see "I am the Lord."
 - a. Cloudy and fiery pillars put between enemies.
 - b. Waters divide.
 - c. Israel passes through.
4. Pharaoh and army destroyed.
5. Song of praise and thanksgiving.

Point of Contact: How do you think you would feel if you had to go to the palace of a king and tell him to do something you knew he would not want to do?

Lesson Statement: I. Moses and Aaron went to the palace of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and requested him to let the children of Israel go into the wilderness to hold a feast and worship the Lord their God. Pharaoh became very angry. He said he did not believe in God, and that he would not let the children of Israel go.

Moses and Aaron told the Lord what Pharaoh had said. Then the Lord told them to go back and perform some miracles before Pharaoh, in order to show him that they had been sent of God. They did so, but Pharaoh would not believe. So the Lord decided to punish the proud king for his unbelief and hardness of heart.

II. The Lord commanded Moses and Aaron to go to the bank of the river where they would meet Pharaoh,



Pharaoh Urging Moses to Leave Egypt

Dore

and to ask him again to let the children of Israel go, and to tell him that if he refused, the river should be turned red like blood. But Pharaoh refused again, and in obedience to the command Aaron stretched forth the rod over the river and the water became like unto blood and no one could drink it; and the fish died. Pharaoh still refused to let the people go.

Seven days after this Moses and Aaron were told to go again to the king and ask him to set the people free. When he refused again, Aaron stretched his rod over the rivers and ponds, and frogs came out of the water and filled the whole land. They hopped into the houses and palaces, and made the people very unhappy. Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the Lord that He may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go." The Lord heard the entreaty of Moses and all the frogs died. But although the power of God was shown in this wonderful way, Pharaoh still refused to take warning, and as soon as the frogs were gone he said the people could not go.

Nine of these fearful plagues were sent upon the Egyptians and each time Pharaoh promised to release Israel, but when the plague was removed he refused to keep his promise. The Lord performed these things that the unbelieving Egyptians would come to acknowledge God, and that the faith of the Israelites might be increased.

The Egyptians worshiped the sun, the moon, etc., and did not know about the Lord. All the plagues were direct attacks upon their gods. The Nile was worshiped

as a god, and it was turned to blood by Israel's great and true God. Frogs were worshiped as sacred animals.

III. Notwithstanding all those terrible things which had come upon Pharaoh and his people, he would not let the children of Israel go with Moses and Aaron. The Lord saw that the only way in which He could deliver His people Israel was by letting death enter the homes of the Egyptians. He told Moses and Aaron that on a certain night a destroying angel would go through the land of Egypt and slay the eldest child in the families of the Egyptians.

IV. You may want to know how the angel would be able to tell an Egyptian home from a Hebrew dwelling. By this means: The Lord told Moses and Aaron to tell each family of the children of Israel to kill a lamb and to sprinkle their door frames with its blood. When the destroying angel saw the blood on the door posts, he would know that it was an Israelitish home, and would pass it by.

The children of Israel were commanded to keep this day a feast to the Lord, throughout their generations, and it was called the feast of the passover because the destroying angel passed over the children of Israel in Egypt and did not slay them.

What an awful scene there was in Egypt the morning after the angel had passed through the land. The king's eldest child was dead, and so was the eldest child in every other Egyptian family. Weeping and mourning, the afflicted but humbled people went to the

king and pleaded with him to let the children of Israel go. They were afraid that even worse would come to them.

V. Pharaoh yielded. He gave orders for the children of Israel to be set free. With joyful hearts the people of the Lord left Egypt, to follow their faithful leaders to a place of safety appointed by God. "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night."

VI. They had not gone far, however, when Pharaoh regretted having released them. He ordered his army to be got ready to pursue the Israelites, and bring them back. When the children of Israel saw Pharaoh's army coming after them, they began to tremble with fright. They believed they would be killed or taken back to bondage, as Pharaoh's well-trained army gained upon them.

They were at the shore of the Red Sea. Moses called out to them, "Fear not. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." "And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them." It became a cloud of darkness to the Egyptians, yet gave light to the Israelites. Then Moses stretched forth his rod over the sea; the waters divided and the children of Israel crossed over on dry ground. Pharaoh and his army hurried after them. When they were in the sea, Moses stretched forth his rod again, the water came back, and Pharaoh and his host

were destroyed. Thus the Lord delivered His people, and punished those who had so cruelly treated them.

Israel saw the great work of the Lord, and they believed Him and feared Him, and they sang songs of praise, rejoicing, and thanksgiving. They said, "I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously."

Application: Which side is stronger: A great many armed soldiers who are wicked, or even a few people who serve the Lord? Why are the good people the strongest? On whose side are the good people? On whose side are the evil people? On which side do you always wish to be? If you serve Him, when danger comes, what do you think the Lord will do?

LESSON 18. A NATION ON THE MOVE

Text: Exodus, 16.

Aim: In order to keep the Lord's commands we must honor the Sabbath day.

Memory Gem: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

I. The Murmuring of the People.

1. Their hardships in the wilderness.
2. Their hunger.

II. The Lord's Promise to Moses.

1. Moses seeks the Lord in prayer.
2. Daily rations.
3. Provision for the Sabbath.

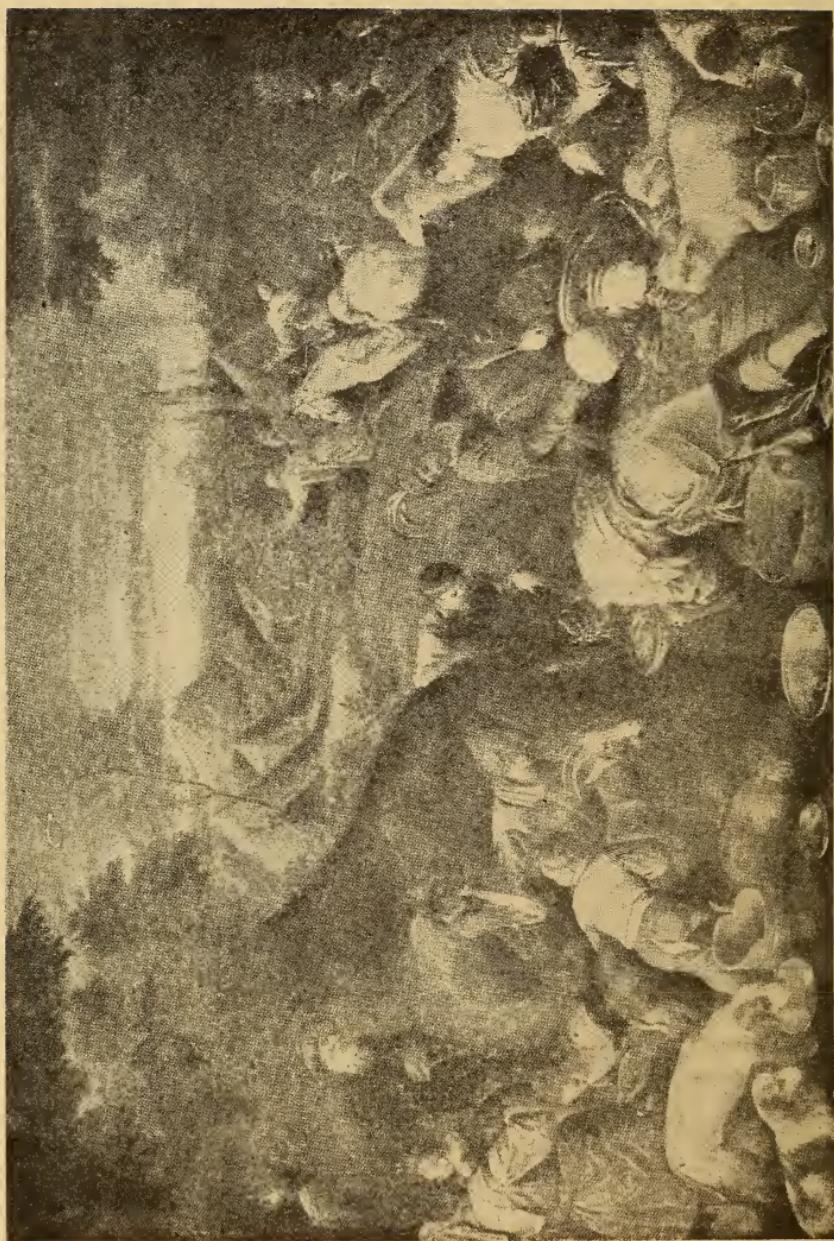
III. The Promise Fulfilled.

1. Quail.
2. Manna.
3. Results of disobedience to instructions.
4. Results of obedience to instructions.

Point of Contact: What are some of the things we do from Monday morning to Saturday night? What are some of the places to which we go? What day of the week have we left out? How does Sunday differ from these other days? We will learn how Sunday differed to the Israelites.

Lesson Statement: I. They suffered great hardships in the wilderness—sand, rocks, the burning sun, camping, lack of all home comforts, etc. They did not

Israelites in the Desert



have much patience in their trials, but each time anything troublesome or difficult came up, they cried out to Moses and lamented that he had led them away.

This was not right and displeased the Lord, for whatever their trouble was, He always came to their assistance.

Their sufferings because of thirst might be related—mothers carrying their babes, almost worn out from heat and thirst, and the babies crying for a drink. They found some springs, and how good the water looked, but when they tasted it, it was too bitter to drink! God showed His mercy and power by telling Moses to throw a certain tree into the spring, and the water became sweet. At another time, Moses was told to strike a large rock with his rod and water gushed forth.

Not only were the Israelites thirsty but also hungry, for their supply had been eaten.

In the wilderness the ground was hard and dry and nothing grew which could be used as food. As the people became hungry they again murmured against Moses and said, it had been better for them to die in Egypt than to starve in the wilderness.

II. "Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my way or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day that they shall prepare twice as much as they gather daily."

III. The people looked and saw the glory of the Lord in a cloud. There He again spoke to Moses. In

the evening numbers of quail came, which served as food for the hungry people. When they rose in the morning the ground was covered with dew and when the dew was gone a small round seed resembling hoar frost lay upon the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, "What is it?" "And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat." "Gather of it every man according to his eating, but let no man leave it till the morning."

But notwithstanding the goodness of the Lord in thus providing for His children, some of the people did not obey Moses' direction. They gathered more than they needed for that day and saved it until the morrow. But to their great surprise, when they looked at it the next morning it had spoiled and was unfit for use.

The people called this seed which was sent from heaven, manna, and it was prepared for food by grinding and baking and tasted like wafers made with honey.

This was sent fresh each day, enough for everybody for the day, but it would not keep. Thus they had to trust to the Lord from day to day. But He made a provision for them to keep the Sabbath day holy. On the sixth day more came down and each one gathered twice as much as could be eaten in one day, and it was laid up till the morning and it did not spoil.

On the Sabbath day they rested and there was no manna to be found anywhere.

The Lord provided for the children of Israel in this way for forty years, until He took them out of the wilderness.

Application: What commandment has our Heavenly Father given regarding the Sabbath?

How did He require the children of Israel to honor the Sabbath day?

How does He require us to honor it? What are some things we should not do on Sunday? What are some of the things we should do on Sunday?

LESSON 19. THE LAWS OF THE LORD

Text: Exodus 19, 20.

Aim: The Lord counsels His children as they need, and requires their obedience.

Memory Gem: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord * * * giveth thee.

I. Israel at Mount Sinai.

1. Camped before the mount.
2. Moses talks with God.
 - a. God's promise to Israel.
 - b. His instructions to the people.
3. The preparation for the third day.
4. Demonstrations on the third day.
5. Moses and Aaron on the mount.

II. The Ten Commandments.

1. Description of the tablets.
2. Explanation of the commandments.

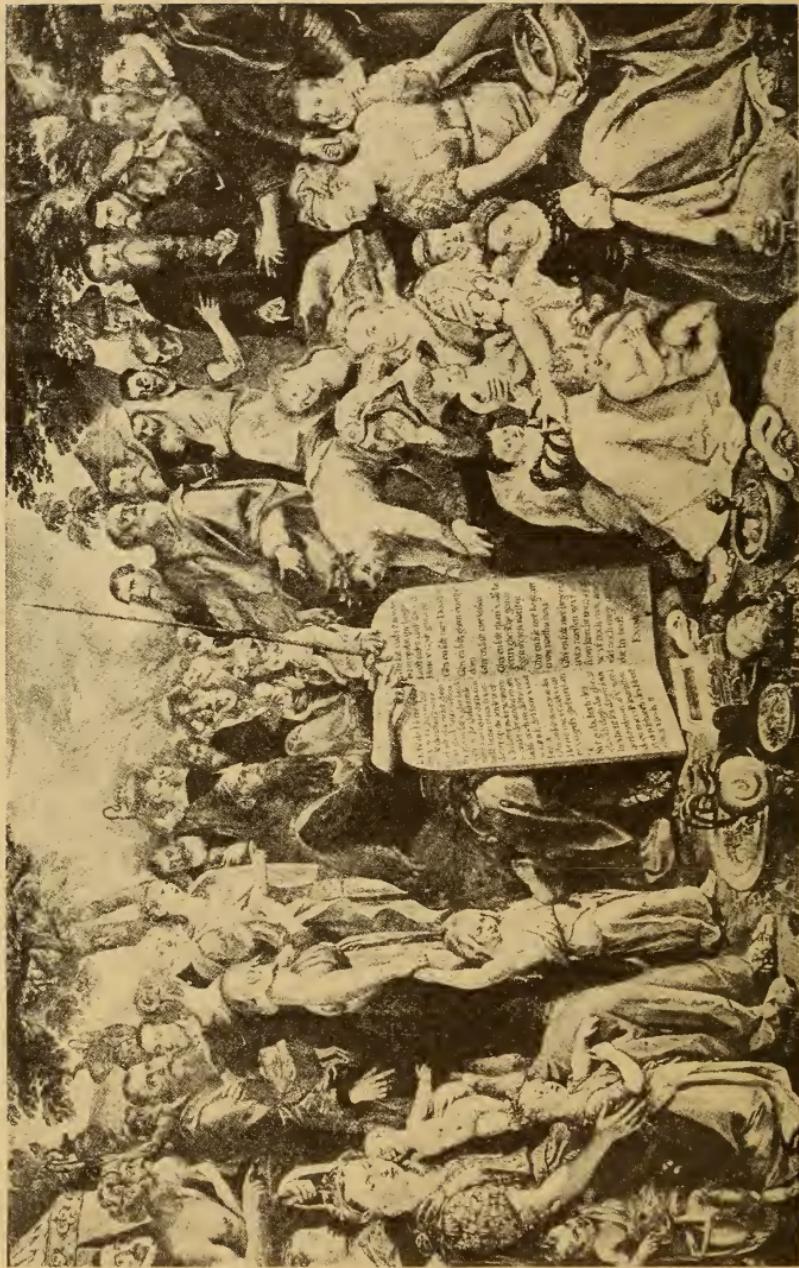
Point of Contact: What are some of the rules of day school? What are some of the rules of Sunday School? How many try very hard to obey them? Men made these rules. There are some rules, or commandments, made by our Heavenly Father. Which commandments are most important to obey, the ones made by men or the ones made by the Lord? Would you like to learn of some of the commandments we must try so very hard to obey, because the Lord gave them?

Lesson Statement: I. Three months after the children of Israel had left Egypt they came to a place called Mount Sinai. I want you to remember the name of that mount, and the wonderful things which happened there, which you will hear about today.

When the children of Israel had assembled at the foot of Mount Sinai, the Lord spoke to their leader, Moses. He told Moses that if the children of Israel would serve Him and keep His commandments He would bless them above every other people.

After having talked with the Lord for some time, Moses came down from the mount and told the people all that the Lord desired them to do. He reminded them of the great blessings which they had received from Him, and of the wonderful manner in which He had saved them, when Pharaoh and his army were coming after them to take them back to Egypt. When Moses had finished speaking the people said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

The Lord had instructed Moses to get the people ready for a certain day. On that day the Lord said He would come down on the mount in a thick cloud. He would speak to the people out of the cloud, and they would hear His voice, but Moses only would be permitted to see His face and talk with Him. The reason the people could not see the Lord was because they were not pure enough. We are told in the scriptures that only the pure in heart shall see God. The people were commanded to wash all their clothing, and to cleanse themselves thoroughly. Then on the day appointed they would be permitted to gather at the foot of the mount,



to see wonderful things and to hear the voice of God.

On the morning of the third day all the children of Israel got up early and made preparations to go to Mount Sinai, to worship God and to see the wonderful things Moses had told them about. When they had all assembled at the foot of the mount, a terrible peal of thunder almost shook the earth. Then the lightning flashed, and on looking up they saw a thick cloud of smoke coming down from heaven and covering the mountain.

The Lord was in the midst of the cloud but the people were not permitted to see Him. He called to Moses and the people heard the voice of the Lord. He invited Moses and Aaron to come up to the mount, and they went up.

II. When they came down Moses held two large, flat rocks in his hands. They were covered with writing. On them were ten commandments, which the Lord had written for the children of Israel to keep.

When the people kept these commandments, they were greatly blessed of the Lord, but when they failed to keep them, they did not prosper.

Illustrate some of the most applicable commandments to the children. If the first one is chosen, enumerate some of the things God has given us: the beautiful world with its blue sky, fleecy clouds, and twinkling stars; the seasons; spring, with its blossoms and birds; summer, with so many, many flowers and good times out of doors; fall, with its ripe fruit and nuts; winter, with its soft, shining snow and fun with sleds and

skates; happy homes, kindred, food, etc., etc. Do you not think we should love Him best of all?

Another commandment tells us we should be very reverent when we speak His name. We should never use it lightly or in anger. When we pray we must bow our heads and close our eyes, and not laugh or think of other things.

Last Sunday we talked of how the Lord wants us to keep the Sabbath. This was written on these tablets of stone.

“Honor thy father and thy mother.” This means to love and obey them. You might, if time permits, tell the story of Carlo and the little boy. Freddie’s mama had two boys and a baby girl. There was also a dog named Carlo. Mama one day called Carlo and told him to take the basket to the grocery store and get a loaf of bread. Carlo wagged his tail and trotted off. The grocer read the note in the basket and sent the dog home with the bread. Carlo seemed to try to say how glad he was he could do something for his mistress. Soon after mama called Freddie and asked him to take care of baby as she was very busy. “Oh, mama, must I come? I’m just building a house. I don’t see why you always spoil my play. Why can’t Tom tend baby.” Mama said, “Come at once,” and Freddie came, but he came slowly and pouted, showing how he hated to leave his play. Don’t you think it looked as though Carlo loved the mother better than her own little boy did? The Lord said that if we obeyed His command about honoring our parents, He would let us live many years in this beautiful world.

The eighth command says, "Thou shalt not steal," which means, "Do not take anything that is not your own."

Another one says that we should always speak the truth. Sometimes it takes a very brave person to speak the truth. Don't you think George Washington was brave when he told his father that he had cut down the cherry tree? He was brave when he fought the English, and he was brave when he spoke the truth. ,

We should never tell anything about another that is not true, either.

Application: Sometimes the Lord gives commandments to his servants in these days. Who is the President of our Church? He is the man who tells us what the Lord wants us to do. What would you do if you learned of other commands the Lord has given?

LESSON 20. A STRANGE CONQUEST

Text: Joshua 1, 3, 4, 5, 6:1-16; 24.

Aim: God's blessings must be earned through faith and obedience to instructions.

Memory Gem: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

I. Cause of Israel's long wandering.

1. Forgetful of God's blessings.
2. Disobedience.
3. First generation not permitted to enter the promised land.

II. Joshua, Moses' Successor.

1. Called by the Lord.
2. Chosen because of his steadfastness and faith.
3. Proving his faith by his works.

III. Crossing the Jordan.

1. Apparently impracticable.
 - a. No bridges.
 - b. High waters.
2. People show their faith.
3. The miraculous crossing.
4. Memorial monument.

IV. The Taking of Jericho.

1. An angel as captain of the Lord's hosts.
2. A strange war tactic.
3. Faith rewarded—the city captured.

V. The Promised Land won and divided.

1. Six years of war.
2. God's promises fulfilled.
3. The land divided.

VI. The Death of Joshua.

1. His exhortation to the people.
2. "But as for me and my house," etc.
3. The people promise to serve the Lord.

Point of Contact: How many have ever seen soldiers drilling? When the commander gave a command what did every soldier do? What might happen if a soldier disobeyed? In order to be soldiers, every one must promptly obey his commander. He cannot stop to question "why" or decide not to obey because he thinks the order not a good one. His must be unquestioning obedience. Our Heavenly Father was leading and commanding the Children of Israel in the wilderness. Sometimes they forgot Him and were disobedient. Sometimes they obeyed with faith. We shall see what happened.

Lesson Statement: I. Because the Israelites who came out of Egypt under Moses turned away from the Lord so often, and so frequently lacked faith, notwithstanding the wonderful ways in which the Lord saved them from the Egyptian army, fed them, gave them water, and in many other ways blessed them, the Lord would not let them go into the promised land, but permitted them to wander in the wilderness forty years, until nearly every one of those who left Egypt had died.

A great number of children had been born to them, however, many of them having grown to manhood, and

the Lord raised up a man who was to lead them into that promised land.

II. This man was Joshua, and the Lord said unto him: "Moses, my servant is dead: now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give them, even to the children of Israel * * * as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of good courage; for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land which I sware unto their fathers to give them."

What a splendid promise this was. How happy it must have made Joshua to know that if he would be strong, and brave, and keep God's commandments, our Heavenly Father would be with him, never fail or forsake him, but would give him victory over the wicked, and give their cities and the land they occupied, to the children of Israel.

Our Heavenly Father wants His children to do things to show their faith, and when they do their part He always does His.

Now let us see how Joshua and the children of Israel did their part and were blessed by the Lord.

III. The people who occupied the promised land did not love and serve the Lord, but were very wicked, and the Lord did not want them to remain in the land; so He told Joshua to get his people ready to cross the river Jordan, near which they were camped. It seemed impossible for such a large number of people to cross the river, for there were no bridges, and its waters were

very high and overflowing its banks. But the Lord was able to help them, and did so in a very wonderful manner. The priests, carrying that beautiful Ark of the Covenant which had been made in the wilderness, went first, and when they touched the water of the river with the soles of their feet, the waters were parted and remained so until all Israel had marched over on dry land. The Israelites showed their faith in God's promise by going to the river to cross it, even though there were no bridges or boats, and God fulfilled His promise and made a path for them.

Twelve men, one from each tribe, were appointed to take a stone each from the bed of the river, and carry it on the other side. There they built with these stones, a monument to commemorate this miracle. The Lord told them to do this, so that when their children should ask them why these stones were piled up, they could say: "Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the Lord dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the Lord * * * did to the Red sea, which He dried up from before us, until we were gone over."

After all the people had crossed over the priests carried the Ark out of the river bed, and the waters filled in again, the river running as before.

IV. The Lord told Joshua to capture the great city of Jericho, and how to do it. This called for great faith, for it seemed a strange way to capture a city—it was God's way, not man's way.

The soldiers marched around the city once each day for six days, followed by seven priests with seven

The Walls of Jericho Fall

Julius Schnorr



trumpets of ram's horns, and then came the Ark; not a word was said, the only sound being the blowing of the trumpets. On the seventh day they got up early and marched around the city seven times, and at the seventh time Joshua told the people to shout, which they did, and the walls of the city fell down, and the Israelites captured it, and thus did the Lord give them the victory.

In these cruel times, thousands of lives are lost in taking a city. In capturing Jericho, not one soul on either side was slain. The Lord directed the campaign and the people were obedient. If we receive instruction from those in authority, no matter how strange it may seem, we should stand the test of faith, if we wish to succeed.

V. For six years the armies of Israel, under command of Joshua, fought against the wicked people of the land, until he gained control of it; and now the land which had been promised to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, was in the possession of their children, God having kept His promise, and the land was divided among the tribes of Israel.

VI. Joshua died when he was one hundred and ten year old. Before he died he told Israel of how the Lord had blessed them, and exhorted them to "Fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth." Then he said to the people, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve; * * * but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And the people said: "The Lord * * * we will serve and His voice will we obey."

Application: Why was it possible for Israel to capture Jericho in this way? What would likely have been the condition if they had not been obedient? What did they have to have in order to be obedient?

Who is the very best possible commander? How many would like to be His soldiers? Our Heavenly Father has commanders under Him. Who is at the head of His church? Of the Ward? Of the Sunday School? How should we act whenever any of these people give us instructions?

LESSON 21. A DAUGHTER'S DEVOTION

Text: Book of Ruth.

Aim: If we really love we will serve. Love demands expression in service.

Memory Gem: "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go."

I. Naomi's Family.

1. In Bethlehem.
2. The journey to Moab.
3. Naomi's widowhood.
4. Her daughters-in-law.
5. Death of her sons.
6. Return to Bethlehem.

II. Ruth's Loyalty and Love.

1. For her mother-in-law.
2. Shown in reply.

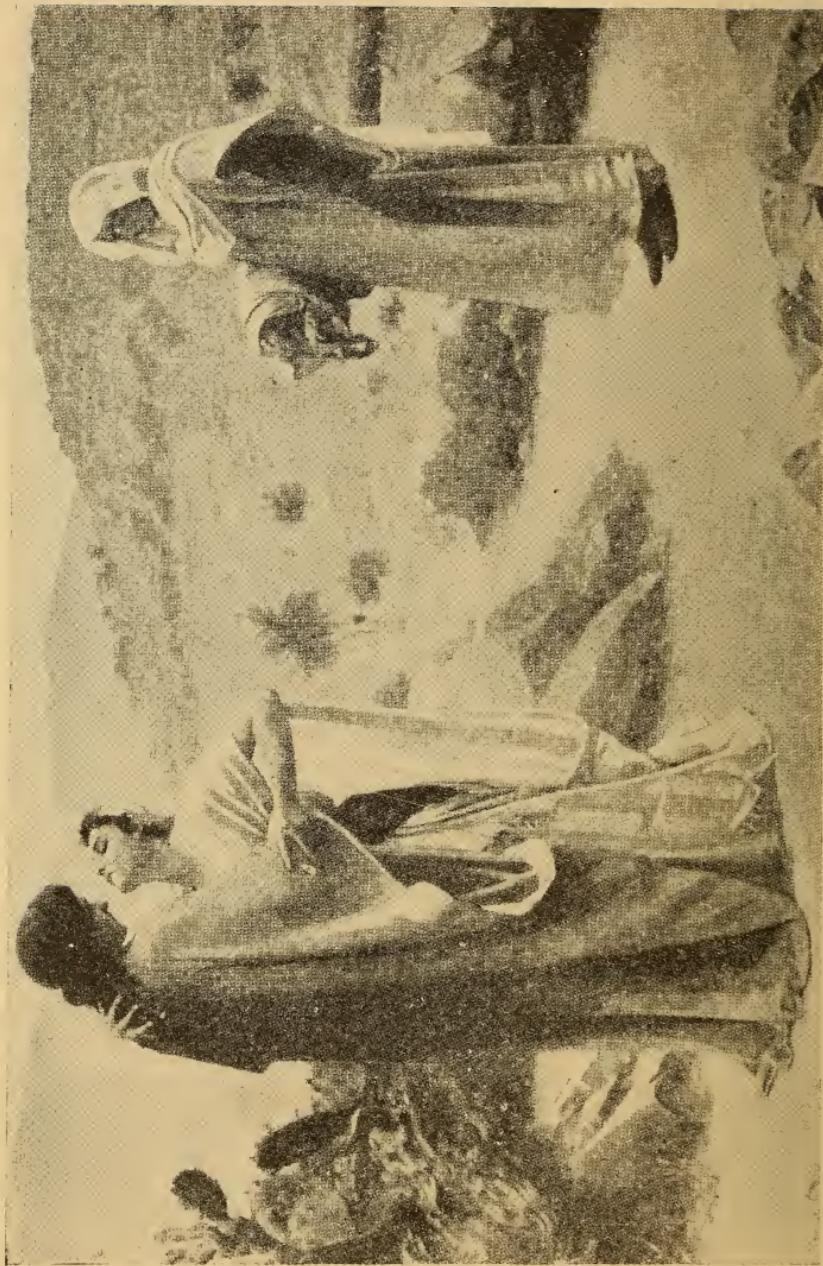
III. The Gleaner.

1. In the field of Boaz.
2. Her marriage.
3. Her posterity.

Point of Contact: A little boy said, "I love you, mother." But forgetting his work, he went out to play, leaving the mother to bring the wood and the water. A little girl said, "I love you, mother; and I'll help you all I can." She rocked the baby, swept the floor and tidied

Ruth and Naomi

Philip H. Calderon



the room—which of these children really loved the mother? Yes, the one that helped her.

Today we shall tell you of a girl who loved her mother, who learned to love the Lord, and who served both so well that the Lord blest her very much.

Lesson Statement: I. During the days of Joshua Israel had served the Lord, and the people grew and prospered in this beautiful land which He had given them. They still had their flocks and herds, but they now cultivated the ground and raised grains and fruit for food. They also built many beautiful cities. This land which is often called Palestine, is the land of Canaan where Abraham lived so many years before. It is the land which Jacob left to journey to Egypt, and to which our Heavenly Father promised to bring Jacob's children back again. So the children of Israel, the descendants of Jacob, made permanent homes in Palestine.

Years after Joshua's death there lived in Bethlehem, a city of Palestine, a family, consisting of a man named Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. There was a famine in the land; so Elimelech decided to take his family across the Jordan to Moab.

Some time after they made their home here a great sorrow came to Naomi; her husband, Elimelech, fell ill and died. She was comforted by her two sons, who worked hard and did all in their power to fill the place of their departed father.

In the land of Moab there lived a grand and noble young woman whose name was Ruth. She was a most



Ruth

Louis Bruck-Lajos

beautiful, modest, loyal, true, God-fearing young woman, and was loved by everyone who knew her.

Mahlon and Ruth grew to love each other dearly, and in the course of time they were married. A little later the other brother, Chilion, married a young woman named Orpah.

Ruth and Orpah had been married only a short time when a terrible affliction came to them—their husbands died. That was also a great trial to Naomi, for these two sons were the only children she had.

After the burial of her sons, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem, where she had wealthy relatives. Her daughters-in-law said they would go with her. She advised them to return to their own people, and Orpah did so.

II. Ruth, however, refused to leave her mother-in-law, for she loved her almost as dearly as if she had been her own mother. When Naomi suggested that she go back to her father's house, Ruth threw her arms around her mother-in-law's neck and burst into tears. "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee," she said, "for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." On hearing that, Naomi told Ruth she could go with her.

III. A few days after their arrival in Bethlehem, Ruth went out to glean in the barley fields of a man named Boaz. On seeing the strange woman in his fields, Boaz enquired who she was, and was told that she was the widow of Mahlon, the son of Elimelech and Naomi.

Now, Boaz was related to Elimelech, and when he learned who Ruth was he showed her much kindness. When the lunch hour arrived he invited her to come and eat with him and his servants.

Ruth expressed her gratitude to Boaz for his kindness, and asked him why he had taken notice of her, who was a stranger to him. He told her he had heard of her, of her love and devotion to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and her loyalty had won his love and respect.

At the end of the harvest Boaz gave a feast to his servants, and Ruth was invited. The next morning, when Ruth was getting ready to return to Naomi, Boaz made her a present of six measures of barley. Then he told her that he loved her, and that, provided another did not wish to marry her, he would make her his wife.

Some time after that Boaz and Ruth were married, and the Lord blessed them greatly. They had a son whose name was Obed. He was the father of Jesse; Jesse was the father of King David, and it was from David that our Lord and Savior descended.

Application: Which loved Naomi the best, Ruth or Orpah? How do you know that Ruth loved her best? Whom do you love very dearly? How could you show that you love your parents? Your teachers? The Lord?

LESSON 22. A BOY WHO LIVED IN A TEMPLE

Text: I Samuel 1, 2, and 3.

Aim: The truest happiness comes from serving the Lord.

Memory Gem: "I'll serve the Lord while I am young."

I. Samuel's Parents.

1. Who they were.
2. Their worship and sacrifice.
3. Hannah's grief and prayer.
 - a. Cause.
 - b. Her covenant.
 - c. Eli's assurance.

II. Samuel's Birth.

1. Hannah's thanksgiving.
2. The naming.

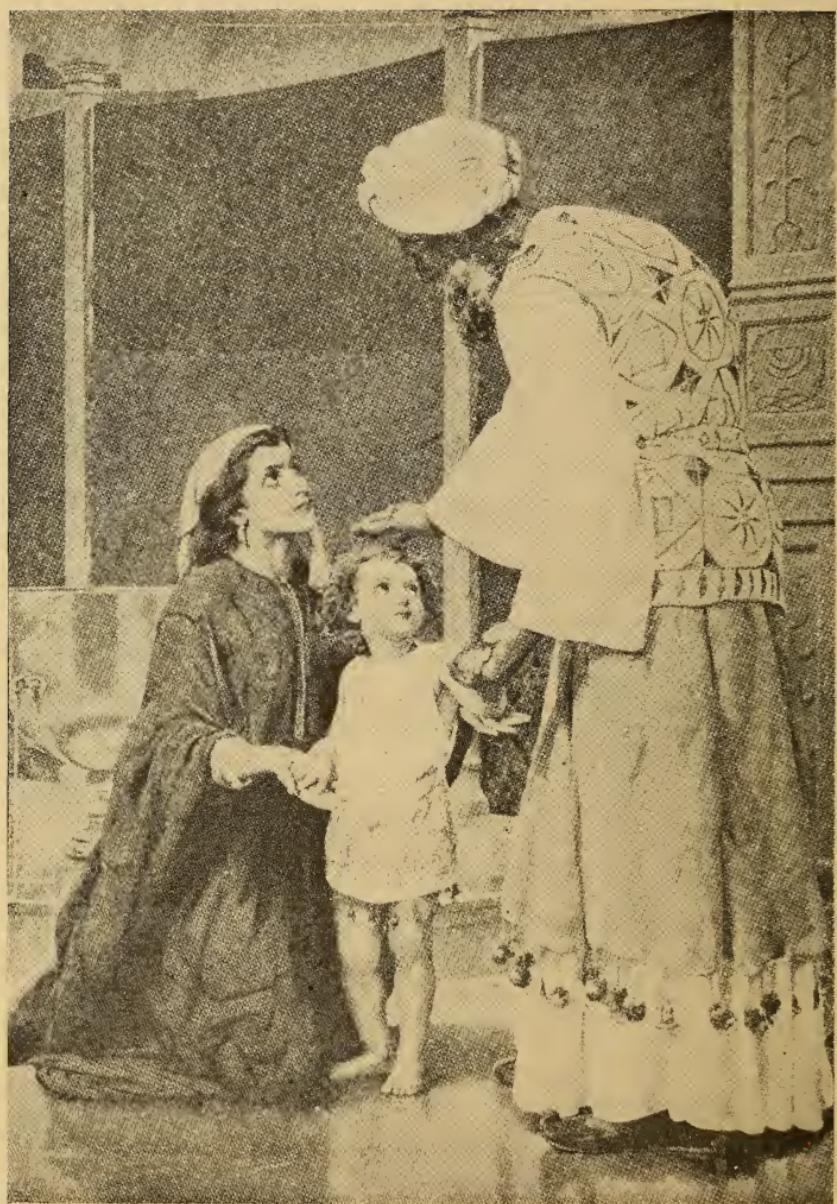
III. The Dedication.

1. How made.
2. For life.
3. Samuel's favor with the Lord.

IV. Samuel, the Prophet.

1. His first vision.
2. His prophetic calling established.

Point of Contact: When you do something that makes another happy, how do you feel? Have you seen anybody make somebody else happy during the past week? Tell us about it. I will tell you of a little boy,



The Dedication of Samuel Francis W. W. Topham

whom we read of in the Bible, who was happiest of all because he served the Lord.

Lesson Statement: I. There lived in the city of Ramah in Palestine, a man named Elkanah. He had two wives. One of them had children, but the other did not have any. The woman who did not have any children was named Hannah. She was a very good woman, and took great delight in serving the Lord.

One time Hannah and her husband went to a place called Shiloh, to worship God and to offer sacrifices to Him. Hannah felt very sorrowful, and could not be induced to partake of food. The cause of her sorrow was the fact that she did not have a child. Elkanah, her husband, spoke kindly to her, and did all in his power to comfort her.

A little later Hannah went up to the Temple in Shiloh, and there she poured out her soul to the Lord in silent prayer. She implored Him to give her a baby boy, promising Him that if He would do so, she would dedicate him to the service of the Lord all the days of his life.

Eli, the priest, sat in the temple. He saw Hannah's lips move, but he did not hear her voice. He thought she was under the influence of wine, and spoke sharply to her. Hannah answered him in a kind and gentle voice. She told him she had neither tasted food nor drink, that day, that she had been praying to God to send her a baby boy. On hearing that, Eli felt sorry for having misjudged the good woman. He gave her a blessing, in which he said, "Go in peace: and the God

of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of Him."

II. And God did hear the prayer of Hannah, and granted unto her the desire of her heart. In due time she gave birth to a baby boy. The baby was given the name of Samuel, which means the "Asked or Heard of God." I cannot describe the joy which filled Hannah's heart day by day as she looked upon her darling babe. The little one received the tenderest care, and grew in strength and in the favor of the Lord.

III. When he was about a year old, his parents took him to Shiloh, to the temple, where his mother had prayed for him, and there he was dedicated to the service of God. Eli, the priest, took charge of him, and treated him as if he were his own child. He provided a little bed for him in the holiest place in the temple, and there he slept at night with the good priest. When Samuel grew into boyhood, Eli gave him certain duties to perform in the temple. Among them were the putting out of the candles in the golden candle-stick, and the opening of the doors at sunrise.

Show that in this service in the temple Samuel was brought near to God—then it will seem natural to the children that there could be and was communion between Him and the boy Samuel; that God really called this little boy and made him a co-worker. Take advantage of the splendid opportunity to instill in their minds the joy of God's service, that they "may early learn to feel that the highest of all privileges is to serve God, and that the mother's truest happiness in her child is

to have him spend his life in serving God." Impress upon the child that "Samuel was just what every child should be, what every child may be—one in whose heart at least God will love to speak, and whose help God is glad to have."

IV. I will now tell you of a remarkable vision which the Lord gave one night to the boy Samuel. He was lying asleep on his little bed in the temple, when he was awakened by a voice calling his name. He arose immediately and went to Eli, thinking it was Eli who had called him. Eli told him he had not called him, and advised him to go and lie down again. Samuel went back to his bed, but no sooner had he lain down than he heard the voice again calling, "Samuel."

Again he went to Eli, and was very much surprised when the priest told him that he had not called him. Samuel returned to his bed. Then, for the third time, the mysterious voice called "Samuel." The boy arose and went to Eli, saying, "Here am I; for thou didst call me."

Eli concluded it was the Lord who had spoken, so he told Samuel to go back to bed, and if his name were called again, to say, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."

The Lord came and stood, and called, as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel." The boy answered as he had been told by Eli. Then the Lord told Samuel that He was displeased with Eli, because he had allowed his sons to do wicked things, and had not prevented them. He said He was going to punish Eli and his sons.



Infant Samuel

Reynolds

In the morning when Samuel arose to attend to his duties, Eli called him and asked him what the Lord had said to him. Samuel did not like to tell the priest; but Eli insisted, so he told him all. Then Eli said, "It is the Lord: let Him do what seemeth Him good."

Point out the difference between the joy that came to Samuel, who served the Lord because he loved Him, and the dreadful fate that fell upon Eli's wicked sons, who used God's service for selfish and sinful purposes.

Samuel grew and became a great man, and was acknowledged, by all the people, as the prophet of the Lord.

Application: Tell how God called Joseph Smith in our day, while he was but a boy, to be a prophet, just as he called Samuel. How can you serve the Lord? When you grow a little older and are made deacons, what will you do for the Lord? When you grow to be a man, or a woman, what do you want to do for the Lord? When is the proper time to begin to serve the Lord. "I'll serve the Lord while I am young." How, then, will you feel?

LESSON 23. A SHEPHERD BOY CHOSEN KING

Text: I Samuel 8:1-22; 9:1, 2:15-27; 10; 13:9-14; 15, and 16.

Aim: The Lord does not judge us by our outward appearance, but by our true worth.

Memory Gem: "The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh upon the heart."

Song: "I'm not too young for God to see."

I. Saul, the First King of Israel.

1. Samuel, Judge over Israel.
2. People desire a king.
3. Samuel's inquiry and the Lord's answer.
4. Saul anointed king.

II. Saul Rejected by the Lord.

1. Because of disobedience.
2. Samuel commanded to choose another.

III. The Choosing of a King.

1. The sons of Jesse appear before Samuel.
 - a. The youngest chosen.
2. David anointed to become king.

IV. Saul and David.

1. Saul's condition.
2. David called to him.
3. Saul's ignorance of the choosing of David.
4. David wins Saul's favor.

Point of Contact: There is One who knows us even better than our father, mother or any one else in the

world. Who could possibly know us better than our parents? Yes, our Heavenly Father, for He knows the thoughts of our hearts, even though we do not express them in words.

Lesson Statement. I. Samuel the prophet had been judge in Israel for many years. He judged the people wisely and well, and when they listened to Samuel's teachings and served the Lord, they had power over their enemies and peace reigned in the land.

One day all the elders of Israel came to Samuel and told him they wanted him to appoint a king to rule over them. Samuel did not think that would be a wise thing to do. He told the elders that if he were to appoint a king, and the king became a wicked man, the people would be made to suffer terribly because of his wickedness; he would take away from them their orchards and vineyards, would take their sons and daughters to be his servants, and would also burden them with heavy taxes.

But the people would not hearken unto the words of Samuel. They insisted on having a king. Then Samuel went and laid the matter before the Lord, and the Lord told him to appoint a king for the people, even as they desired.

There lived in a certain part of the country at that time a powerful and wealthy man named Kish. He had a son whose name was Saul. Saul was remarkable for his beauty and strength. He was also very tall; in fact he was head and shoulders taller than any other man.

This man the Lord told Samuel to anoint as king over Israel. So Saul became king.

II. Because he failed to keep His commandments, the Lord decided to release Saul from being king over Israel. No matter how great a man may be, nor important the position he may hold, if he does not do right he will not have the approval of God. On the other hand, no matter how humble a man's lot may be, if he does right, and keeps the commandments of God, the Lord will honor him.

Now, the eyes of the Lord had been upon a young man in Israel. He had watched him from his childhood, and He was well pleased with his godly life. That young man the Lord decided to make king over Israel in place of Saul.

III. There lived in the town of Bethlehem at that time a man named Jesse. He had several sons. They were fine, strong, healthy, good-looking fellows. They were also good young men; but there was one who seemed to be more highly favored of the Lord than the rest.

One day the Lord told the prophet Samuel that He desired him to go to Bethlehem and anoint one of the sons of Jesse king over Israel. That frightened Samuel. He told the Lord that if Saul heard what he was going to do, he would have him put to death. But the Lord knew how to protect His servant. He told Samuel to take a heifer with him, and to tell the people he was going to offer sacrifice to the Lord.

When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem he was met by the elders of the people, who asked him for what purpose he had come. He said: "To offer sacrifice." He told them to tell all the people to get ready, and to join

him on a certain day. He also sent word to Jesse to come to the sacrifice and to bring his sons with him.

When Jesse came to Samuel, the prophet told him that the Lord had sent him to anoint one of his sons king over Israel, for Saul had been rejected because of his disobedience to the commandments of God. Jesse called the tallest and finest looking of all his sons and presented him to Samuel. When the prophet saw him he said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him."

Just then the Lord spoke to Samuel and said, "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature, because I have refused him; for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh upon the heart."

Then Jesse called another son and made him pass before Samuel, but he said, "Neither hath the Lord chosen this." And when another son was called Samuel made the same reply: "Neither hath the Lord chosen this." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, "The Lord hath not chosen these. Are here all thy children?" And he said, "There remaineth yet the youngest, and behold he keepeth the sheep." And Samuel said unto Jesse, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he come hither."

"And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance and goodly to look at. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him; for this is he."

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him



David as a Good Shepherd

in the midst of his brethren; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.

IV. But the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit had taken possession of him. While he had the Spirit of the Lord he was very happy; but when he got possessed of the evil spirit, he became miserable.

One day one of his servants told him he knew he could get rid of the evil spirit; Saul asked him how that could be accomplished. The servant said by getting a man who could play well on a musical instrument. He knew one, a son of Jesse, whom he had often heard play on a harp while out in the fields tending his father's sheep. That young man was David.

So Saul sent for David. He did not know at that time that David had been chosen to be king in his stead. David came to Saul. He sat down before the king and played such heavenly music on his harp that the evil spirit departed from Saul, and he had peace for a time.

Application: Why was Saul rejected by the Lord as king over Israel? Why was David chosen? How does our Heavenly Father judge us? Which is better to have, a pretty face and beautiful clothes, or a beautiful character? How can we get a beautiful character?

LESSON 24. A BATTLE WITH A GIANT

Text: I Samuel 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Aim: Reliance upon the Lord brings strength and courage.

Memory Gem: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts."

Song: "Dare to do Right."

I. The Two Armies.

1. Where camped.

II. Goliath's Challenge.

1. Its object.

III. David, the Shepherd Boy.

1. Tending his father's flock.

2. Singing and slinging.

3. David sent to his brothers in the army.

IV. David's Acceptance.

1. His faith in God's love and power.

V. The Victory.

1. Goliath slain.

VI. What Victory Brought to David.

1. The king's favor.

2. Jonathan's love.

3. Michal, Saul's daughter.

4. Generalship of the army.

5. Admiration of the people.

VII. Some Other Things.

1. The king's jealousy.
2. Attempts on David's life.
3. Repeated escapes.
4. Abandonment of the king's court.
5. Parting from Jonathan.

Point of Contact: In whose care should we place ourselves every night before retiring? Whom do we want to watch over us during the long night, and during the day to keep us from harm, and help us to do right? How can we place ourselves in His care? If we have perfect confidence in our Heavenly Father, we will never fear to do anything that we know to be right.

David placed himself in the Lord's care, and was very brave because he knew that the Lord would protect him. Would you like to hear about it?

Lesson Statement: I. One day news was brought to Saul that the Philistines were preparing to attack his people. Saul gathered the armies of Israel together and took them to the top of a mountain. The armies of the Philistines were camped in a mountain opposite.

II. In the ranks of the Philistines there was a great giant. His name was Goliath. He was ten and a half feet high. He wore on his head a helmet of brass; and he was dressed in a suit of armor. He came down from the camp of the Philistines, and standing in the valley between the two mountains, challenged any of the Israelites to come out and fight him.

He stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, "Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and you servants of Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him, then shall ye be our servants and serve us. I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together."

"When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid." Day after day for forty days the giant went out and gave the challenge to Israel; but there was no one among them who had the courage to accept it.

III. Three of Jesse's sons were in the ranks of the Israelites on the top of the mountain.

"On the hills above, toward Bethlehem, there was a shepherd boy seated in the midst of his flock, under the silvery olive trees. Now he is singing to his rude harp, and anon springing up to practice with the sling that is the protection of his flock from the lion and the bear. His father sends for him to carry a message and gifts to his older brothers in the army, and so down the hillside and over the fields he comes, and brave in his unquestioning faith in God, takes up the giant's challenge, and becomes the champion and the liberator of his people."

While David was talking with his brothers, Goliath came down into the valley, as he had often done before, and challenged any man among the Israelites to come out and fight him.

IV. Imagine the surprise of the Israelites when David declared that he had not the least fear of the giant, and that he would accept his challenge and go out and fight him. Saul was in charge of the Israelitish army, and when he heard that David had volunteered to fight the giant, he sent for him. Saul told David that it would be impossible for him to stand up against Goliath, who was such a great warrior that all Israel were afraid of him.

Saul said to David, "Thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." David told Saul that one day, while he was tending his father's sheep, a lion and a bear came down from the mountains, and they each seized a lamb and was making off with it, when he pursued them, took the lambs from them and slew them. David said moreover, "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of the Philistine."

The great faith and courage of David won the admiration of Saul, and he said to him, "Go and the Lord be with thee."

V. Saul armed David with his armor, and he put a helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail, and girded his sword upon his armor; but David said, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them." And David put them off, then he took his staff in his hands, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even a scrip: and his sling was in his hand. And so armed he went forth to meet the

Philistine, who for more than forty days had defied Israel.

Describe the valley where this combat took place—the vale of Elah, up which the Philistine army swarmed, with their archers and spearmen and their war chariots. They reached the three cornered plain of Shocoh, shut in on all sides by hills. Upon one of the hills the army of Israel (which probably had no chariots) was entrenched among the rocks and the bushes. The Philistines, with their chariots on the plain below, and probably with their archers entrenched on the side of another hill, wanted to draw the Israelites from their trenches down to the open plain, which would give the Philistines a chance to shower them with arrows as they came down the hill, and meet those who remained, with their war chariots and spearmen.

It is not likely that Goliath expected that any one would accept his challenge, but rather hoped that his defiance of the Israelites and his ridicule of their God, would so anger them, that forgetting prudence, they would charge down the hill.

When Goliath saw David coming towards him, he became very angry. "Am I a dog," said he, "that thou comest to me with staves? Come to me, and I will give thy flesh to the fowls of the air and to the beasts of the field."

Then David said to the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand:

and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

Putting a stone in his sling, David went forward to meet the giant. When he got a certain distance from him, he cast a stone at him. The stone struck the giant in the forehead and he fell to the earth. David ran forward, and seizing Goliath's sword, cut off his head.

Great fear took possession of the Philistines when they saw their hero slain, and they began to run down the mountain. The armies of the Israelites pursued and defeated them.

VI. David was escorted to the tent of Saul. The king praised him for the great deed he had done, and took him to live with him in his beautiful palace.

The king had a son, whose name was Jonathan. David and Jonathan loved each other as if they were brothers, in fact each loved the other more than he did himself. Perhaps no two boys have ever loved more than Jonathan and David. The king was so pleased with David that he gave him his daughter to be his wife. He made him general of the army. All the people admired and loved him.

VII. Then the king grew jealous. He sought to kill David when he listened again to the evil spirit. David had to flee for his life. Jonathan helped David escape a number of times. Finally David had to abandon the king's court and part with his dear friend

Jonathan. David had the Spirit of the Lord and would not do any one any harm. He waited for the Lord to bless him, in his own time.

Application: Why was David not afraid when he went to meet the giant? When you have duties to perform, on whom could you rely? If you did trust in the Lord how would you feel?

LESSON 25. RESPECT FOR THE LORD'S ANOINTED

Text: I Samuel 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Aim: The Lord blesses those who return good for evil.

Memory Gem: "Thou art more righteous than I; for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I rewarded thee evil."

I. David Flees to Escape Saul's Anger.

1. Becomes leader of a band.
2. Delivers one of Saul's cities.

II. Delivered from Saul.

1. Nearly surrounded.
2. Saul recalled.

III. Saul in David's Power.

1. Saul sleeps in David's cave.
2. David urged to slay him.

IV. Good Returned for Evil.

1. David cuts off Saul's robe.
2. The Lord's anointed.

V. Saul Recognizes David's Mercy and Righteousness.

Point of Contact: How do you feel when you have been kind to someone? Supposing someone has been unkind to you, and you are still good to him, how do you feel? It is easy to be kind to those who are kind to us, but we ought to be kind to all, even to those who are unkind to us. How happy we feel when we have loaned our ball or our doll to one who may have been unkind to us. Jesus wants us to love everybody.

Have you ever been kind to some one who had been unkind to you? Tell me about it. How did it make you feel? No doubt the unkind person felt very much ashamed and sorry when you treated him kindly. This is returning good for evil. The person who is kind to enemies, proves himself to be strong and noble, and pleases our Heavenly Father. Jesus always forgave His enemies and was kind to them. We are going to learn how David was kind to his enemy.

Lesson Statement: I. Jonathan always tried to protect David, but when he found that Saul's heart was so filled with wicked jealousy that David was no longer safe, he gave the signal to flee. Even before this, Saul had been cruel to David, but David had no hatred in his heart for Saul, but always tried to help him. Saul often listened to the evil spirit, and then tried to harm David because he was good and loved by all the people. So as Jonathan had no power to protect David against Saul his father, David fled to Nob, where he secured some bread and Goliath's sword. After further traveling, he came to the cave of Adullam, in the land where he was near his own people. Fearing that Saul might injure his father and mother, David took them to the king of Moab for safe-keeping.

While at the cave of Adullam, David gathered a number of men, who made him their captain. He led them against the Philistines, who had attacked a city called Keilah. David's men thought they were too few, but God told David to go. He went and won.

II. David always sought the aid of his Heavenly Father, who instructed him what to do. The Lord told

him that Saul would come upon his hiding place. Saul then learned where David was, and while he should have been grateful for what David had done in delivering this city of Keilah, instead he called out his army to fight against David. David now had six hundred men, whom he led to a place called Ziph, where he hid in the mountains. There Jonathan visited and encouraged him.

Then the people of Ziph went and told Saul where David was, and Saul took his army there to kill David; but David escaped to the wilderness of Maon, pursued by Saul, who almost surrounded him. Just then word came to Saul that the Philistines had come into his land, so Saul went there to protect his people. David then went to Engedi.

III. When Saul had returned from following the Philistines, he took three thousand chosen men and went to seek David "upon the rocks of the goats." These rocks are very high and rough, hard to climb and a good place to hide in. Saul came along to the very cave where David and his men were, and laid down to sleep, not knowing David was there. Saul would like to have killed David. What would David do to Saul? David's men wanted him to kill Saul while he slept, and thus end their troubles; but David was so good and noble that he did not wish to hurt him. He remembered that Saul had been anointed to be king, and he would not hurt the Lord's anointed, even though his own life was in danger while the king lived.

IV. David went up to Saul while he slept, and cut a part of his robe so he could show Saul how close he had been to him, having said to his followers when they urged him to kill Saul, "The Lord forbid that I should

do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed." It is wrong for man to raise his hand or voice against one whom the Lord has called and anointed.

V. Saul rose up out of the cave and started on his way. David, whose presence he had not discovered, followed and cried out to Saul: "My lord, the king," and bowed to the ground in recognition of his authority. David then asked the king why he listened to false stories and believed that he, David, wanted to harm him. He reminded him that he had just been in his power, but he would not put forth his hand against the Lord's anointed. David showed Saul the skirt of the robe which he had cut off. Then Saul saw that David had spared his life, and said: "Is this thy voice, my son David?" and wept because he then knew David was more righteous than he, for he said: "Thou art more righteous than I; for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I rewarded thee evil;" and he admitted that surely the Lord would some day make David king.

David must have felt very happy, as we all do when we have "done unto others as we would that they should do unto us."

Application: Why did David have to flee from Saul? Tell what happened in the cave. What did David's men want him to do? What did David answer? Who are the Lord's anointed in our day? How can we show respect to those who hold the Priesthood? When Saul saw that David had spared his life, how did he feel? What did he say? How do we feel when we have been kind, and especially when we have been kind to someone who has been unkind to us?

LESSON 26. A WISE KING

Text: I Kings 3; II Chronicles 9.

Aim: The desire for wisdom is pleasing to the Lord.

Memory Gem: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, and it shall be given him."

I. David's Reign.

II. Solomon Becomes King.

1. Chosen of the Lord.

III. Solomon's Desire.

1. Solomon asks for wisdom.

2. The Lord's promise to him.

 Wisdom, riches, honor, long life.

IV. Wisdom of Solomon.

1. Example of.

V. Solomon's kingdom.

1. Extent.

2. Riches.

3. Renown.

Point of Contact: There are so many lovely things to want in this wonderful world. Have you boys and girls ever thought of what you would like when you grow to be men and women? There is one thing that would please our Heavenly Father if we wished for it. That is wisdom—to be wise, to know a great deal. If we know a great deal then we can do very many things; we can do much good and make many people happy. Can you think of some very wise men or women?

Joseph Smith was one man who was very wise and he received his wisdom from the Lord. The Lord said: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God and it shall be given him." Joseph Smith believed this, and asked for wisdom and the Lord gave it to him.

Lesson Statement: I. After Saul's death, David was declared king over Israel. He ruled over his people for forty years, and in all this time he continued to serve the Lord, so he became great and powerful. But he did not forget the covenant he made with Jonathan, who had been killed in a great battle, and when he heard that one of his sons was yet alive, he sent for him, and restored to him all the lands of his father Jonathan.

II. David had many sons of his own, and several of them were good men, but the Lord chose Solomon, one of the youngest, to become king. When David became old and could no longer rule over the people, Solomon was made the king of Israel.

One day David invited all the princes and chief men of the land to come to Jerusalem. When they were all together, he rose and told them that many years before the Lord had chosen Solomon to be their king. He said the Lord had promised Solomon that if he would obey His commandments, he and his sons should always be the kings of Israel.

Then he told the people to keep the commandments of the Lord, that they might always have the good land which the Lord had given them. When he was through talking to the people, he turned to Solomon and spoke to him before all the people. He said these beautiful words: "And thou, Solomon, my son, obey the God of

thy father, and serve Him with all thy heart; for the Lord looks at the heart and knows all thy thoughts. If thou wilt serve God, He will be thy friend; but if thou turn away from serving Him, he will cast thee off forever."

Solomon now sat on the throne instead of his father, David. The princes and all the great men and all the people served him. He was very young to be a king, but he tried hard to do what was right. He loved the Lord and trusted in Him.

III. One night, when Solomon was lying asleep, the Lord talked to him in a dream. He told Solomon he might have anything he wished for. When the Lord said, "Ask what I shall give thee," Solomon knew what he wanted more than any other thing. He said, "Give thy servant wisdom, that I may know good from bad, and be able to rule well over Thy people, the children of Israel."

The Lord was very much pleased with the answer Solomon gave. He told him that because he had not asked for riches, nor for long life, nor for power over his enemies, He would give him the wisdom he had asked for. And, besides wisdom, He would give him riches and honor more than any other of the kings that had been before him or should come after him. The Lord also promised Solomon that if he would do what was right, He would grant unto him long life.

When Solomon awoke out of his dream he was very happy, and went to Jerusalem and made an offering unto the Lord.

IV. As the time went on, Solomon became very great. The people in all the country heard how great and wise Solomon was, and came to see him and to hear his wise sayings. One day, when King Solomon sat on his throne, two women came to him. Each one carried a little baby in her arms. The babies were both little boys, and seemed to be about the same age. But one of the babies was dead. The mothers were both very angry and were quarreling with each other.

One of the mothers went close to the king and said, "O king, this woman and I live in the same house, and we each have a little baby boy. In the night her baby died, because she covered him too much; and when she woke and found he was dead, she arose and took away my baby, and laid her dead baby in my arms."

"That is not true. The living baby is mine," cried the other mother. And so they quarreled in this way before the king.

How was he to know which one spoke the truth? Nobody out of the house in which these women lived knew the babies apart, and each one said the living baby belonged to her.

Now, Solomon's wonderful wisdom helped him to tell which was the real mother of the living child. He knew that the mother of the living baby loved her child and would let no harm come to it. So he turned to his servant and said, "Go, bring my sword."

When the servant returned with the sword King Solomon said, "Divide the baby and give half to one mother and half to the other."

You must not think that Solomon was cruel. No, he wanted to know which of the women was the mother,

and he knew that the real mother would not allow her baby to be hurt.

He was right, for one woman cried, "O, do not harm the baby; give him to her." The other woman only bowed her head.

Solomon saw in a moment which was the mother because she was filled with love, and he said, pointing to the real mother, "Give her the living baby, and do it no harm." So the true, loving mother had her child safe and well.

When the people heard what Solomon had done they praised him and were willing to serve him, because they knew that the Lord had given him wisdom.

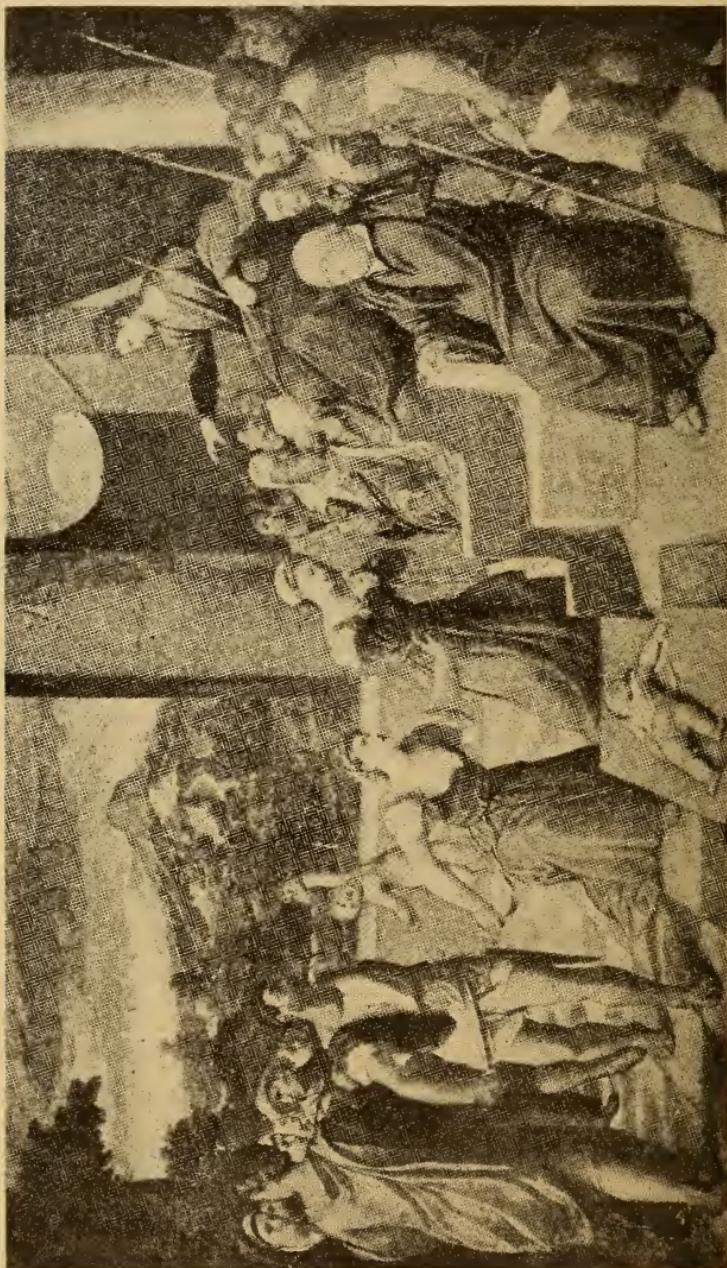
V. The Lord not only gave Solomon wisdom, but He gave him great riches as well. Solomon built for himself a grand house. He had everything he could wish for. Every year a great many ships went away to far-off lands, and came back bringing gold and silver and ivory for him.

There was once a queen of a land called Sheba, a far-off country. She was very beautiful and very rich. When she heard of Solomon's wisdom and riches she made up her mind to go to Jerusalem and see this wise king. So, with a great many camels loaded with costly spices and with gold and silver, she started for the land where Solomon lived. She took her most beautiful clothes with her, that she might wear them in the king's palace.

Many people watched the beautiful queen and the long train of camels slowly making their way to the king's palace. When the queen arrived at the palace

Bonifazio Veronese

Judgment of Solomon



the king received her very kindly and made her welcome. She talked with Solomon and asked him many hard questions. He answered them all, and explained all that she asked him.

When she was taken through his beautiful house, and shown the golden pathway which led to the temple, she was filled with wonder. She was pleased with her visit and gave Solomon many costly presents of gold and precious stones. Solomon in turn gave her many presents. Then she and her servants went back to their own country.

Application: Which of all Solomon's possessions was the best to have? Who gave Solomon his wisdom? The Lord can make us wise if we strive for it. What has He promised? ("If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, and it shall be given him.")

LESSON 27. GOD'S HOUSE

Text: I Kings 6; II Chronicles 3-7.

Aim: If we have proper reverence for the Lord, we will show reverence for His houses of worship.

Memory Gem: "My house shall be called a House of Prayer."

I. Solomon's Special Work.

1. David's desire.
2. The Lord's instructions to Solomon.

II. Erection of the Temple.

1. Many men employed.
2. Cedars brought from other countries.
3. Materials prepared so that hammer or ax was not heard in Temple.
4. Seven years in construction.

III. Description of the Temple.

1. Grandest ever built.
2. Size: 105 feet by 35 feet and 52 feet high.
3. Interior decorations.
 - a. Two halls divided by vail, surrounded by chambers used by priests.
 - b. "Molten Sea"—15 feet diameter, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet high; held 17,000 gallons.
 - c. Carvings, gold, draperies, precious stones, etc.
 - d. Beautiful furnishings, including magnificent plate collected since days of Saul.

IV. Dedication of the Temple.

1. Assemblage.
2. Removal of the ark to the Temple.
3. Solomon's dedicatory prayer and blessing.

Point of Contact: Why did we come to the chapel this morning? To whom does it belong? What other places of worship can you think of? Which is the most sacred of all?

Lesson Statement: I. A long, long time ago, when David and Solomon lived upon the earth, the Lord wanted the people to have a temple. David wanted to build it, but the Lord was not willing that he should do it. He told David that He wanted his son, Solomon, to build the temple. The Lord told David just how and where the temple was to be built; and when David was ready to die, he called Solomon to him and told him just what the Lord wanted him to do. Even though David was not going to build the temple, he made ready many stones with which to build it. The Lord also gave Solomon a great deal of gold and silver to use.

II. Soon after the death of David, Solomon began the great work of building the temple. It was the grandest temple that was ever built. It cost a great deal of money and took many, many men to build it. Every stone of which it was built was made into its proper shape before it was taken to its place in the temple. The sound of a hammer or an ax was not heard in the temple all the time it was being built.

There were 10,000 men constantly employed in the Lebanons. They worked one month and then returned to their homes for two months, while others took their places. The Lebanons were one hundred and fifty to two hundred miles northeast of Jerusalem. They hauled the timbers thirty or forty miles to the Mediterranean, took them in flats to Joppa, thence over good roads

across the valley of Sharon, up through the mountains of Judea to destination. The Israelites were agriculturists and exchanged raw materials for finished products and timber of Lebanon.

III. All the inside was covered with wood. This wood was carved and then covered with gold. The floors and door and inside of the great porch were all covered with pure gold. A beautiful crimson and purple curtain was hung between two rooms. In different parts of the room King Solomon put precious stones, to make the place more beautiful.

When the temple was finished, Solomon called all the people of Israel to Jerusalem, that they might see the beautiful temple. The ten commandments which were written on the tables of stone, had been kept all this time, and now the temple of the Lord was built they were taken there.

IV. Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, the heads of the tribes, and others, instructing them to bring up the Ark of the Covenant. They brought not only the Ark, but all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, which were then deposited in the temple.

“It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord.” The burden of their song was, “the Lord is good; for His mercy endureth forever.” The house was filled with a cloud, a mark of our Heavenly Father’s approval.

Then Solomon arose, and all the congregation stood, while Solomon recited God’s promises and goodness. Then, kneeling, he spread his hands toward heaven and

offered a beautiful dedicatory prayer, asking for God's mercies towards His people.

I hope that everyone of you has either seen or heard of our beautiful temples. One of them, perhaps the most beautiful of them all, is in Salt Lake City. The pioneers had only been in Salt Lake valley a few days, when the prophet, Brigham Young, chose the spot where the temple should be built.

One day, while he was walking with some men, he put his cane down in the ground and said, "Here we will build the temple of our God." The place was then very dry and barren, but now, on that very spot, stands the beautiful Salt Lake Temple.

A few years after the place was chosen the building was started. The people were all very poor then, but they knew that they were doing the will of the Lord, and they had faith in Him and knew that He would help them.

The rock of which the temple is built is light gray in color. It is called granite. (Show the children a little piece of granite.) It was hauled by ox teams from the mountains, about twenty miles from Salt Lake City. Some of the rocks were so large and heavy that it took four yoke of oxen to haul them. The oxen traveled very slowly with their heavy loads. It sometimes took four days to bring one of these heavy rocks to the city.

The people worked very hard in those early days, and saved all the money they could to help build the temple. Often, while they were building it, the work had to stop because the people had no money; but as soon as they could they would begin work again. It

took a very long time, but the Saints trusted in the Lord and were patient, and worked hard until the temple was finished.

The temple is longer than it is wide, and on each end there are three great towers. On the middle tower on the east end there is a beautiful gilt statue of the angel Moroni. When the sun is coming up in the morning and going down in the evening, its light shines on the statue and makes it look beautiful. Everything about the temple is very clean, and the place is very quiet. The lawns and flowers are very beautiful in the summer time, and to walk in the temple grounds fills one with beautiful, heavenly thoughts.

The inside of the temple is also very beautiful. There are a great many rooms, and they are furnished with very fine furniture. The carpets and curtains are all the very best, and pictures of many of the Lord's servants hang upon the walls. There are two rooms which are seated with chairs, and it is in these rooms that meetings are held.

After the temple was finished and furnished, many Latter-day Saints came to Salt Lake City. Meetings were held and the temple was dedicated to the Lord, that His work might be done there. The temple is the Lord's house, and only people who are very good are allowed to go into it. Even Latter-day Saints have to get statements from their bishop and stake president saying that they are good enough to enter. Other people cannot even get close, for there is a fence around its beautiful gardens which keeps them away.

There were a great many people who had died before the Gospel was restored to earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith. These people had not been baptized nor confirmed members of the true Church, and now our fathers and mothers go to the temple and are baptized for them. Is not that grand? And do you not think that our Father in heaven is pleased with His people? Many good people go almost every week to the temple, and are made very happy.

There is a little girl in Salt Lake City who was once very sick. The doctors who went to see her, said they did not think she would get well. Her mother and father were good people, who loved the Lord. The little girl's mother took her to the temple, and she was baptized and blessed there, and now she is well. She is very happy, and knows that our Heavenly Father made her strong again.

When you girls and boys grow big, if you are good, you will go to the temple to be married, and then you will be happy, for that is the place where our Father in heaven wants His children to be married.

Application: How many would like to go to the temple when you grow up? How can we show that we reverence other places of worship? How should we care for the furniture? The walls? What should the boys do before entering? If it is muddy, what should we all do? How should we conduct ourselves after entering?

LESSON 28. THE GREAT DROUGHT

Text: I Kings, 16:29-33; 17:1-6; 18th chapter.

Aim: A departure from the true faith forfeits the blessings of heaven.

Memory Gem: "Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

I. A Prophet of the Lord.

1. The calling of a prophet—God's mouthpiece to the people.
2. The voice of a Prophet is the voice of God.
3. Punishment always follows the rejection of a Prophet's message.

II. Description of Elijah.

1. His clothing.
2. His long, coarse hair and beard.
3. Stern, serious face, but warm heart.
4. His abode—in the desert and lonely places.

III. Ahab, King in Israel.

1. A wicked ruler.
2. Effect of his bad example upon the people.

IV. Jezebel.

1. A princess of Tyre.
2. Wife of Ahab.
3. Beautiful, but selfish and cruel.
4. Her introduction of idol worship.

V. Elijah's Message.

1. Elijah sent to Ahab.
2. He predicts a great drought.
3. The prophecy fulfilled.
4. Great suffering and death.

VI. The Lord Remembers His People.

1. Through repentance and humility the people regain the favor of God.
2. The people return to the worship of the true God.
3. The drought broken.

Point of Contact: Have you ever thought of what would happen if no rain fell during the spring or summer, nor snow during the winter? What would become of the crops the farmers planted, of the trees which furnish us with fruit, of the grass and flowers that make our homes so beautiful? I wonder if we always remember that it is God who, in His love for us, sends the rain and the sunshine and the snow—all for our good, as then the wheat grows and we have flour from which to make bread to eat, the trees bear delicious fruit, the cows feed upon the grass and give us milk, while the flowers help so much to make us happy.

We are going to tell you today of a people which did not feel grateful to our Heavenly Father for such or any blessings, the necessity of their being taught a lesson, and how God taught the lesson.

Lesson Statement: I. After King Solomon's death, the kingdom was divided and two kings reigned over the people. These kings forgot the Lord, and both kings and people turned aside into wickedness; but our Heavenly Father was merciful to them, even in their sin, and sent His prophet to warn them of the sorrows that should come upon them if they did not repent.

I am going to tell you today about a great affliction which came to the children of Israel one time, because they turned away from worshiping the true God, the

God who had brought them out of Egypt, taken them through the Red sea, and landed them safely in the Promised Land. But before doing so, I wish to speak of a great prophet that lived at that time. A prophet is one who stands between the Lord and the people. The Lord reveals His mind and will to His prophet, and he in turn tells the people what the Lord desires them to do.

When the people do as the prophet tells them, they obey the Lord; but when they disobey the prophet they disobey the Lord. It is a very serious thing for people to treat lightly the counsel of a prophet of God. You heard how the people perished in the days of Noah, because they refused to obey the counsel which the Lord gave them through the Prophet Noah.

II. The prophet I am now going to tell you about was named Elijah. He was one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. He was not like other men. He did not dwell in the cities, but lived in lonely and desert places. There, with everything peaceful around him, he walked with God and learned His will. I am sure you could not guess how he was dressed. He was clothed in a mantle of rough cloth made of camel's hair. His hair and beard were long and rough. His face was stern and serious, but his heart was tender and full of love.

III. About one hundred years after Solomon, part of the children of Israel were ruled over by a king named Ahab. He was a wicked man. The Bible tells us that "Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him."

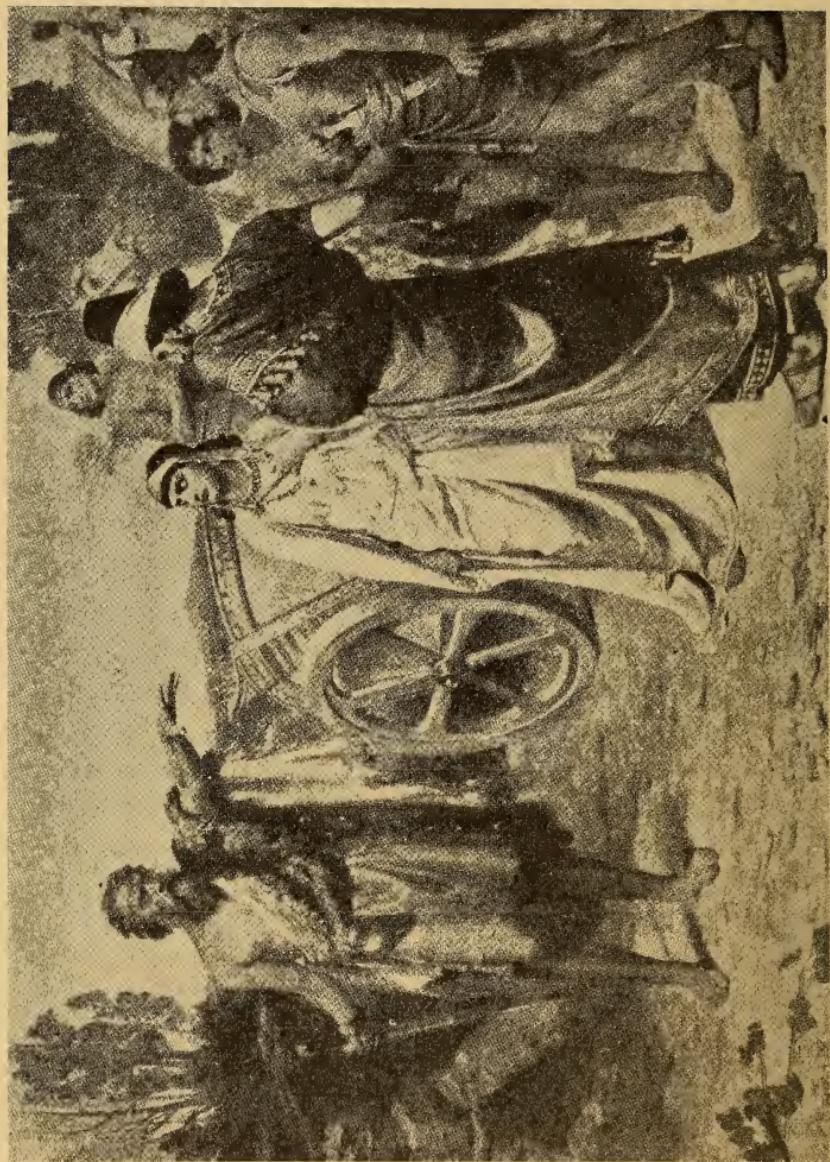
And I am sorry to tell you that the bad example of this wicked king was followed by most of the people.

IV. Ahab married a princess whose name was Jezebel. She was very beautiful, but she was also very selfish and cruel. She did not believe in the true God. She was a heathen, and worshiped idols. Ahab loved her, and did many things that were wrong, just to please her.

This is one of the wicked things he did: He commanded the children of Israel to stop worshiping the God of their fathers, and to worship a false god named Baal. Some of the people did as the king commanded, but others would not. The prophets and priests would not worship Baal. They said they would remain true to the faith of their fathers, and serve the Lord, for He has said, "Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Because of their refusal to worship the false god of Ahab and Jezebel, many of the prophets were put to death.

The Lord was greatly displeased with the king and also with the people. It was from the true God that they received so many blessings. He had blessed them with health and strength, food and clothing, flocks and herds, and many other good things. Now, they had turned away from Him, and were worshiping a false god.

V. How was He to bring them back to the true faith? He decided to let a famine come upon them, to humble them. He told Elijah the prophet to go to King Ahab, and to tell him that for three years no rain would fall on the earth. Without rain, the crops would



Ahab and Elijah

Francis B. Dicksee

not grow, and the people would suffer with hunger. Then, perhaps, they would repent, and turn and worship the true God, who had made the heavens and the earth, and all that are in them.

Elijah did as the Lord commanded him. He told the king about the great famine that was coming, but the king did not believe him. Then the Lord said to Elijah: "Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee. So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord: * * * And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook."

The famine came just as Elijah had said. For three years there was neither rain nor dew. The crops could not grow, and there was scarcely any food for the people. Indeed, many of them died of hunger and thirst.

VI. At the end of three years the people were very humble. Then the Lord sent Elijah to them again. He succeeded in getting them to turn from their evil ways. Then the Lord blessed them as he had done before. He caused the rains to come again and the crops to grow, so there was plenty of food for man and beast. The people were very happy. They worshipped the true God, and gave thanks and praise to Him for His blessings.

Application: Who is the Giver of every blessing we receive? How should we show our gratitude to Him for these blessings? Upon rising in the morning? When about to partake of food? When going to bed?

LESSON 29. THE CHARIOT OF FIRE

Text: I Kings, 19; II Kings 2:1-15.

Aim: A righteous life brings a glorious reward.

Memory Gem: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

I. Elijah's Life Threatened—His Escape.

1. Jezebel vows to take the life of Elijah.
2. The prophet repairs to the wilderness.
3. Ministered unto by an angel.

II. The Calling of Elisha.

1. Elijah commanded to go and anoint his successor.
2. Meeting of Elijah and Elisha.
3. Elisha's feast.

III. The Beginning of the End.

1. Elijah visits the school of the prophets.
2. Elisha's request.
3. The chariot of fire.
4. The mantle of Elijah falls upon Elisha.
5. Elisha accepted as the prophet in Israel.

Point of Contact: Mama went away and left Mabel and Alice home to do the work. Alice thought she would rather go out and play. She left Mabel, took her doll and visited a neighbor, where they played "house." Alice thought she was having a very fine time. Mabel also would have liked to go, but she wanted to please her mother, so stayed home and had the house all straightened when mama returned. Now mama brought a beautiful new dress for one of her girls. Which do you think she gave it to? Why?

Which girl was happiest then? Which girl's "fun" lasted the longest?

Our Heavenly Father has rich blessings for His good children. This is how He rewarded some of them.

Lesson Statement: I. Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, was the means of turning many of the children of Israel from the true faith. She also had a number of the prophets put to death, because they would not worship the false god, Baal.

Jezebel was very angry with the prophet Elijah. One day she sent a servant to him to tell him that on the following day, the queen would have him put to death.

On hearing that, Elijah hastened to Beersheba. There he left his servant while he went a day's journey into the wilderness. The prophet was very tired, so he lay down to sleep under a juniper tree. He had no food with him; but he did not worry on that account. He knew his Heavenly Father would provide food for him. He had done so before—the ravens had brought him bread and meat, morning and evening, while he dwelt at the brook Cherith, and the widow, at the command of God, had given him food in an hour of need. And so the prophet trusted in God.

And in a strange way the Lord provided for His servant. While Elijah slept an angel came down from heaven and prepared food for him. When the meal was ready, the angel went over and touched Elijah, saying, "Arise and eat."

The prophet arose, and on looking round he saw a cake of bread, baked upon a fire, and also a pitcher

of fresh water. After partaking of food and drink, Elijah lay down to sleep again. The angel touched him a second time, and said, "Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights, unto Horeb, the mount of God."

II. On arriving at Horeb, Elijah went into a cave and lodged there. At this time the word of the Lord came to him, telling him to go and anoint Elisha to be prophet in his stead. Elijah went at once to carry out the instructions of the Lord. He found Elisha working in his father's fields. He, with a number of farmers of the village, were plowing up the red soil before putting in the wheat. The work was being done by oxen, and the plows used were simply sharp sticks.

On looking up from the plow, Elisha saw an old man coming across the fields towards him. As he drew near, and Elisha saw his long hair and mantle, he recognized him as the prophet Elijah. He wondered why he was coming to him. When the two men met, Elijah took off his mantle, and placing it upon Elisha's shoulders, told him to follow him, for God had chosen him to take his place as the prophet of Israel.

III. Taking off the mantle, Elijah turned and went on his way. Elisha stood looking after him in astonishment. Then he ran to Elijah and said, "Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and mother, and then I will follow thee." Elijah told him he might go.

A great change had now come over Elisha. He had felt the touch of the prophet's mantle, and the

spirit of a prophet was already burning in his breast. He was no longer a plowman, but a prophet of God. His mission would be to lead Israel in the paths of truth and righteousness.

Elisha went back and drove the oxen home. He would not need them again, so he roasted the animals and invited his friends to come and dine with him. The men sat round the fire, while the women helped them to pieces of roast beef, with cakes of newly-baked bread. They also served them with water, oil, salt, melons, grapes and figs.

Realizing that his earthly life was fast drawing to a close, Elijah paid a parting visit to the schools of the prophets at Bethel and Jericho. Elisha went with him, for he wanted to be with his faithful teacher as much as possible. On leaving Jericho, Elijah requested Elisha to go back to the city, and leave him to go on his way alone. But Elisha said, "As the Lord liveth, and as my soul liveth, I will not leave thee."

A number of the younger prophets followed them at a distance. As they stood on the hillside watching the departure of Elijah and his companion, they beheld a wonderful sight. On coming to the banks of the river Jordan, Elijah took off his mantle and struck the water with it. Immediately the river parted, and he and Elisha passed over on dry ground.

Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken from thee." And Elisha said, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." Elijah answered and said, "Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me



Elijah in Chariot of Fire

From "Easy Steps in the Bible Story," by permission of Review and Herald Publishing Association.

when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

“And Elisha saw it, and he cried, ‘My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horses thereof.’ And he saw him no more.”

As Elijah went up into heaven in the chariot of fire, his mantle fell to the ground. Elisha ran and picked it up, and turned his face towards home. On coming to the river Jordan he followed the example of Elijah and smote the water with the mantle. Instantly the waters parted and Elisha crossed over dry shod. Then he knew more fully that the Lord was with him, and that the power of Elijah rested upon him.

The young prophets, who were still standing on the hillside, saw what Elisha had done. They knew then that God had accepted Elisha in place of His servant Elijah, and they came humbly and bowed before Elisha, and received him as their new teacher.

Application: What blessings has our Heavenly Father promised us if we are faithful? How many would like to live in heaven with Jesus, some day? If people are good enough, Jesus will give them blessings more beautiful than we can now imagine. Which kind of treasures would you rather have, earthly or heavenly? How can you store up treasures in heaven? How long will heavenly treasures last? If we live rightly, what can we have with us, even before we go to heaven?

LESSON 30. A PROPHET'S PROMISE AND A WIDOW'S FAITH

Text: II Kings 4:1-7.

Aim: The Lord helps His people when they are in need, if they trust in Him.

Memory Gem: O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

I. The Widow.

1. Her distress.
2. Her sons to be sold for debt.
3. Her faith.
4. Applies to Elisha.

II. Blessed by the Lord Through His Prophet.

1. Elisha's directions to the widow.
2. The widow's oil increased.
3. Her sons saved.

III. Her Gratitude.

Point of Contact: What are some of the things our Heavenly Father has given us? Why has He given us these blessings? When we are sick how could the Lord bless us? Sometimes His children need His blessings in other ways. Sometimes people have not money to buy enough to eat or wear. Would you like to hear of a poor widow whom we read of in the Bible, who needed the Lord's blessings very badly?

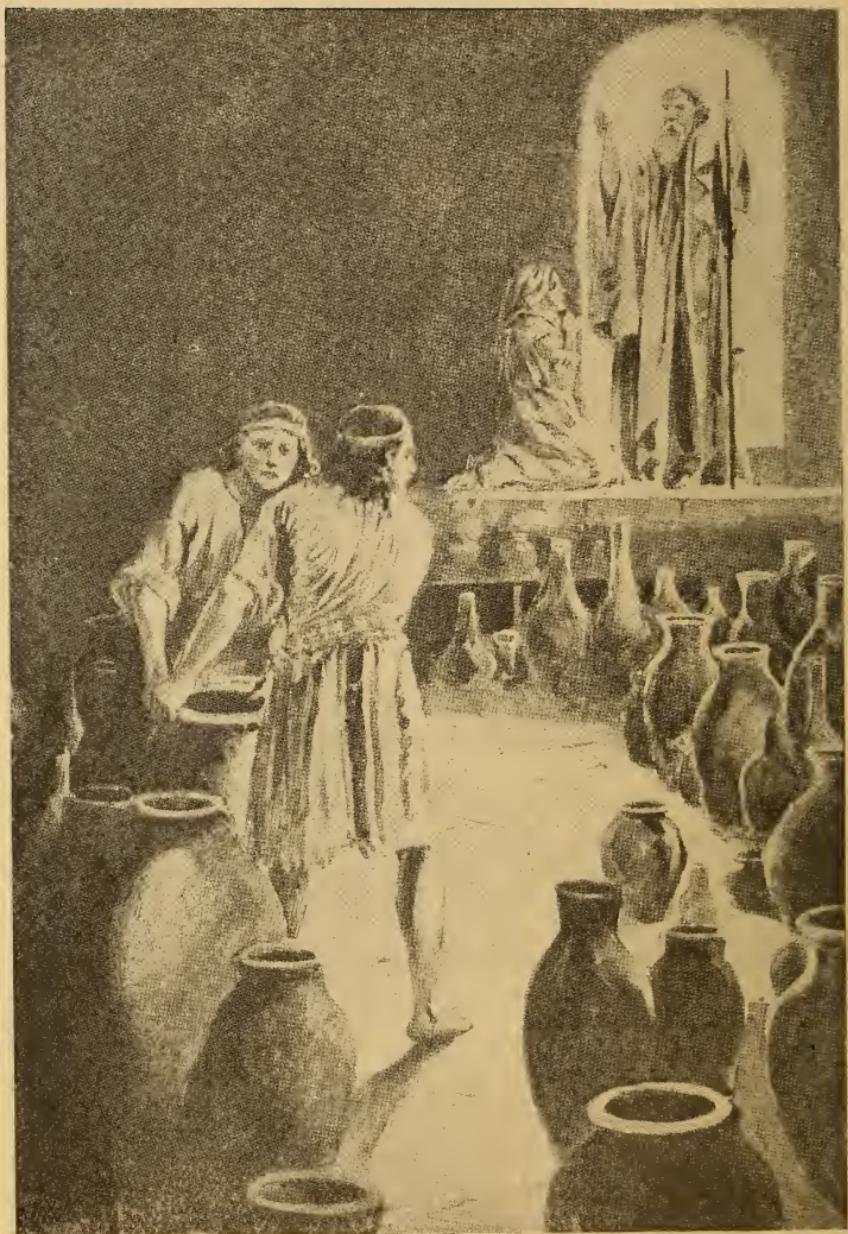
Lesson Statement: I. Elisha, as a prophet in Israel, tried hard to get the people to serve the Lord. In this work he had a great many helpers—men who studied

and worked with him, for the good of the people. These men were called the sons of the prophets. One of the sons of the prophets died and his widow went to Elisha, saying: "Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen."

It was the law in that country, if a man got into debt and could not pay, the one whom he owed, the creditor, made the man or his son his servant, or bondman, for a great many years. So because this woman's husband was in debt, her two sons would be taken from her to become bondmen. The woman's heart was full of sorrow for the loss of her husband, and now she must lose both of her sons. She knew Elisha was a prophet of God, and that he could help her in her trouble. So she went to him for help.

II. Elisha said unto her, "What shall I do for thee? tell me: what hast thou in the house?" And she said, "Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil."

People in that country used a great deal of oil. They used it to anoint the body. They used it in their food. So that oil could be readily sold. So when the widow said she had nothing, save a pot of oil, Elisha said, "Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full."



Elisha and the Widow's Cruse of Oil George A. Newman
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They did as Elisha commanded. They went to the neighbors and borrowed many vessels. Then closing the door, the widow took up the pot of oil and began pouring the oil from it into the pot which her son brought to her. When it was full it was set aside and another was brought. One vessel after another was filled, and still the oil came pouring out of the pot, until the woman said unto her son, "Bring me yet a vessel; and he said unto her, There is not a vessel more."

When the woman looked upon all these vessels, each filled with oil, her heart was full of gratitude to her Heavenly Father. She went at once to Elisha. And he said, "Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest."

III. So with a glad heart the widow hastened home again to do Elisha's bidding. The debt was paid and her sons were free, and enough money was left to buy food and clothing. The Lord gave not only what she asked, but He gave abundantly. And as she and her sons went to the Lord in their trouble, in their prosperity, I am sure they went to Him, with joy and thanksgiving in their hearts, and acknowledged His goodness. "O, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good."

Application: Why did the Lord bless this poor widow? If we should ever need anything very, very badly, whom could we ask for it? What should we have when we ask? Perhaps we would ask for something that would not be good for us, then our Heavenly Father, who knows better than we, would not grant our desire. When we ask for the right blessings, what kind of people should we be, so the Lord will answer our prayer?

LESSON 31. "AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM"

Text: II Kings 5:1-16.

Aim: Great blessings come from a child's faith.

Memory Gem: "Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel."

I. Naaman.

1. Who he was.
2. His affliction.

II. The Hebrew Child.

1. Captive of the Syrians.
2. Maid of Naaman's wife.
3. Her sympathy.
4. Her faith.

III. Naaman Goes to Samaria.

1. Visits the king.
2. Seeks Elisha.
3. Message from the prophet.
 - a. How received.

IV. Naaman Healed.

1. Acknowledges God.

Point of Contact: Has any one whom you love very, very much been seriously sick at home? Whom do you think could cure that person? Perhaps a doctor was sent for. Did the doctor know what to do? Yes, doctors have studied and know a great deal about sickness. Did the doctor help the sick person? Who thought of someone else besides the doctor who could

cure sick loved ones? Who is it that knows a great deal more and has much more power than doctors? No matter how sick a person is, the Lord always can cure him, if we have faith and ask Him to do so. Many times people are cured, without even sending for a doctor, if they ask our Heavenly Father to cure them. Many times the doctor has said that such people cannot live, but the Lord has made them better.

Lesson Statement: I. Just north of the country ruled by the king of Israel, was a country named Syria. The chief city in Syria was the beautiful city of Damascus. It is situated near the foot of snow-clad mountains, on a plain covered with rich corn fields, beautiful gardens, and blossoming orchards, and made fruitful by the clear, sparkling waters of two rivers. The bright buildings in the city rise out of a sea of variously tinted foliage, and the city and its surroundings make a beautiful picture.

In the city of Damascus there lived a man named Naaman. He was the captain of the Syrian king's soldiers. He was an honorable man, as well as a brave one, and he was in great favor with the king. But Naaman was very ill, with an incurable disease. He had leprosy. This is such a serious disease that often the one who is afflicted with it has to go away and live by himself.

II. Naaman lived in one of the beautiful homes in Damascus. The streets of the city are very narrow, and the part of the house facing the street is only a plain wall with a doorway in it. But through this doorway one passes to a very beautiful interior. In the



Francis W. W. Topham

Naaman's Wife and the Little Captive Maid

center of the house is a marble-paved court, ornamented with trees, shrubs and fountains. The rooms of the house open upon this court and are often luxuriously furnished. In such a home the family of Naaman lived.

The maid of Naaman's wife was a young girl who had been brought as a prisoner from the land of Israel to Damascus, by the Syrian soldiers. But although this little girl was a prisoner, in a strange land, she performed her duties cheerfully, striving to bring happiness to those for whom she labored, and desiring their welfare in all things. She was full of sympathy for her master's suffering, and knowing the great power that the Lord gave to His prophet, she one day said to her mistress, "Would that my master were with the prophet that is in Samaria! and he would recover him of his leprosy."

III. The words of this little maid were repeated to Naaman, and when the king heard of it, he said to him, "Go, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman departed, taking with him presents of gold and silver and fine clothing. He drove in a chariot drawn by horses, and the soldiers who accompanied him walked. It would take them several days to go to Samaria, for it was more than a hundred miles from Damascus. But at length Naaman arrived at the king's palace and presented the letter which he had from his king.

He was received graciously by the king of Israel, but when he read the letter which said, "I have sent Naaman my servant to thee that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy," he became angry and said, "Am I

God, to kill and make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy?"

When Elisha heard of the king's anger, he sent to the king, saying, "Wherefore art thou angry? Let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman came with his horses and his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, "Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean."

"But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not * * * the rivers of Damascus better than all the rivers of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage."

IV. But one of his servants came to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean."

Naaman listened to the advice of his servant, and going to the river he "dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came and stood before him; and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel."

Naaman urged Elisha to accept the rich presents which he had brought, but Elisha refused to do so, saying, "Go in peace." So Naaman departed to his own country.

Application: When we want the Lord to heal us, how do we ask Him? Sometimes we pray to Him ourselves. Whom do we often call in to bless us? Why do we call in the elders especially? What do they do? What must we have in order to be healed?

LESSON 32. HAVING EYES THEY SAW NOT

Text: II Kings 6:8-23.

Aim: Those who serve the Lord show mercy and forgiveness even to their enemies.

Memory Gem: Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you.

I. Syria and Israel at War.

1. Syrian camp.
2. Surprised by Israelites.
3. King fears traitors.
4. Sends to take Elisha.

II. Elisha's Deliverance.

1. City surrounded.
2. The servant's fear.
3. Syrians stricken with blindness.

III. Elisha's Treatment of His Enemies.

1. Gives them food.
2. Allows them to return to Syria.

Point of Contact: How many of you like to see soldiers marching with their bright uniforms and sparkling swords and guns? How many of you have ever heard a great big cannon roar when it is fired? Today we are going to tell you of some soldiers, who lived before there were any guns or cannons, and who used, instead of guns, bows and arrows and spears. Who traveled, instead of on trains and automobiles, on foot, or on horseback, and particularly in what were called chariots—perhaps you have seen some chariots in the circus.

Lesson Statement: I. Their camps did not look much like the camps of soldiers today, for they liked bright colors, and they usually had with them, their king or some of the king's high officers. The king's tent was usually placed in the center, and his long spear was stuck in the ground in front of it. The tents of the captains were placed around that of the king, and each captain had to look after the men under him. A standard or large banner waved over the camp. The officers and soldiers of high rank wore breastplates made of brass or iron, and helmets upon their heads. In battle they fought with heavy shields, and with swords and lances or spears. Each officer had an armor-bearer. After these officers in chariots, came the horsemen, dressed in armor with lances, swords and spears. Then came a great throng of soldiers on foot, carrying bucklers or shields made of wood, covered with tough hides. These men fought with bows and arrows and slings.

The king of Syria gathered a vast army and went to make war against the people of Israel. When he drew near the country of his enemy he looked about to find a good place for his camp. After talking it over with his officers, he decided to make his encampment in a place where he thought his army would be safely hidden from the king of Israel.

Soon the men were at work pitching tents, caring for their horses, and sharpening their weapons.

The Syrian king thought that his position was safely concealed from the Israelites, and that he could easily sally forth and overcome his enemies. The camp was hidden from the king of Israel but not from Elisha,

the prophet, for God had given him the power to know what was happening near and far.

He said to the king of Israel, "Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down."

Then the army of Israel went down and surprised the encampment, and got safely away again. They made more than one attack in this way.

When the king of Syria found that his position was discovered by his enemy, he was deeply grieved, for he thought that some of his own men must have turned traitors and told the Israelites.

He called them together and said, "Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

"And one of his servants said, none, my lord, O King: but Elisha, the prophet, that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bed chamber."

When the king heard this, he knew that he could not conquer Israel unless he could get possession of their prophet; so he said, "Go and spy where he is that I may send and fetch him."

II. Word came that Elisha was in a city called Dothan; so the king sent a vast army to surround the city and take Elisha.

Elisha's servant rose early in the morning and went forth and saw to his amazement that the city was surrounded by this great army. He hurried to tell Elisha and said, "Alas, my master! how shall we do?"

Elisha answered, "Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

And the prophet asked the Lord to open the servant's eyes that he might see. God answered the prayer and the servant beheld horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha, and he was no longer afraid.

When the Syrians came to take Elisha he asked God to blind them, so that they should not know him, or know where they were, and then he said to them, "This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek."

The Syrians followed Elisha, who led them straight-way into the country of the king of Israel.

When Elisha prayed that God would open their eyes, He caused them to realize where they were, and behold they were in the hands of their enemies.

III. When the king of Israel saw his foes before him, he said to Elisha, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them?

"And he answered, Thou shall not smite them: wouldst thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

"And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel."

Application: How did Elisha return good for evil? Which was the bravest and best—the big Syrian army or Elisha? How did Elisha's treatment make all the soldiers feel? What effect did it have on the war? How did Jesus show He forgave His enemies? Can you tell

us of some one who has treated another kindly, even though that person was unkind to him? How many think you could act this way? How would you feel after doing so? Which way pleases our Heavenly Father?

LESSON 33. THE CAPTIVE PRINCES

Text: II Kings 24, 25; II Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 52:1-30; Daniel 1.

Aim: God directs the mind of a pure, strong body.

Memory Gem: "And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge." (Doc. & Cov., Sec. 89.)

Song: "In Our Lovely Deseret."

I. The Prophecies Concerning Jerusalem.

1. Jeremiah.
2. Warning unheeded.

II. Jerusalem Besieged.

1. Nebuchadnezzar.
 - a. Takes prisoners and vessels from Temple.
 - b. Jerusalem destroyed.

III. Babylon.

1. A beautiful city.

IV. Four Captives.

1. Daniel, (Belshazzar), Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

V. The King's Bill of Fare.

1. For the captive princes.

VI. The Captive Princes refuse meat and wine.

1. Result—physically, mentally.

Point of Contact: When is it easier to get your lessons, when you are strong and well, or when you are sick, perhaps have the headache? When you are sick you often have to leave school and go home. You can't

get your lessons, your mind can't work. Our Heavenly Father has told us how to keep our bodies strong and well, and make our minds bright. This story is about some boys who knew how to be well, strong and wise. What city of the Israelites was the most beautiful? Yes. Jerusalem. Name the most beautiful building in that city. What a beautiful building was the temple, with its great stone columns, its beautiful carved wood, its gold covered doors and porch, its crimson and purple curtains, and its precious stones.

Do you remember how God blessed the Israelites in giving them possession of the Promised Land, and how rich they became, until they were able to build the great City of Jerusalem and its beautiful temple? How strange it seems that notwithstanding all these things, the people forgot Him, and ceased keeping His commandments.

Lesson Statement. I. The Lord warned them not to sin, by sending prophets, who told them what would happen if they did sin. Among these prophets was one named Jeremiah, who called upon the people to repent, and warned them that Jerusalem would be destroyed if they did not repent and stop doing wrong. He wept because of their sins, and of the fate of the city he loved. But they would not repent.

II. In the far east a long way from Jerusalem there lived a very powerful king named Nebuchadnezzar. He had a mighty army, consisting of many chariots of war, thousands of soldiers who rode on horses, and many thousands on foot. He sent this great army to Palestine. When the king and the people of Judah heard that this great army was upon them, they were filled with

fear, but even then they would not listen to the prophet of God.

The army of king Nebuchadnezzar captured one city after another, and then surrounded the City of Jerusalem, and finally captured it. They took from the temple the vessels that were used for sacred service. These vessels were taken to their great city, called Babylon. Entering the king's palace, they took from it all the treasures that were to be found, but worse still, they took as prisoners all the princes in the palace and carried them to Babylon also.

Just as the prophets whom God had sent to warn the people had told them, Nebuchadnezzar's army came up against Jerusalem again, and this time they not only took all the treasure they could find, but set fire to the buildings, including the palace of the kings and the Temple of God, which were leveled to the ground. The prophet Jeremiah had said: "Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed."

III. The city of Babylon, where king Nebuchadnezzar lived, was a very beautiful city. It was many miles long and situated on both sides of the river. The king had a palace on each side of the river, and these buildings were connected with each other by a tunnel under the river bed. The grounds connected with the palace were very large and beautiful. With their gardens, groves and lakes they were larger than many cities. The hanging gardens were planned by the king to please the queen. There were several terraces, one above another, each terrace being planted with trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. The houses in the city

were some distance apart and surrounded by flower gardens, and with its large, beautiful public buildings, its many parks, and the canals of water running through it, it was indeed a beautiful place.

IV. To this city were carried the captives who were taken prisoners at Jerusalem by the armies of king Nebuchadnezzar. Among these prisoners there were four little princes, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. They were interesting, brave, noble boys.

V. The king of Babylon, whose servants they now were, wanted them to grow up to be strong and wise, that they might learn great things and be of use to him. So he ordered his men to care for them in the best way he knew, which was to feed them from his own table. But Daniel knew it was not right for him and his brothers to eat the meat and drink the wine included in this food, and resolved not to do it, for they knew, as we know through the Word of Wisdom, which God gave to us through the prophet Joseph Smith, that such things were not good for man. As God promises through obedience to that Word of Wisdom "And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge," we will learn that the four little princes found "wisdom and great treasures of knoweldge" because they were wise in their eating and drinking, even so long ago.

VI. So Daniel asked their master, Melzar, to give them none of the wine and meat, but only water and pulse—that is such vegetables as peas and beans. But Melzar said they would grow thin and weak on such poor food, and then the king would be angry with him.

"Only try us for just ten days," said Daniel. And God so blessed the food, that at the end of ten days these four boys were fairer and fatter than all the other children who had been eating the king's dainties.

And Melzar had found that none were so true, obedient, and honest, so he trusted them very much. They grew wise and learned, and still loved and feared their God, though they were slaves, so far from home.

At the end of three years the king had them brought before him and found that in all matters of wisdom and understanding they were ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in his realm.

Application: What kind of fruit do you like best? What kind of vegetables? What meats? Surely our Heavenly Father loves His children, as shown by providing such delicious things for us to eat. He knows what foods are best for His children. In His love for us He has told us of certain things which are not good for us. What are they? Just a few things when we remember the many and the wonderful variety of good things. If we are obedient to His teaching, and do not take those things not good for us, He has given us a promise that we shall have strong bodies and bright minds, and by thus keeping our minds and bodies pure, we shall better understand the things of God. Listen to some of the promises: "And all Saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments shall * * * find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures: And shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint; and I, the Lord, give unto them a

promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them."

Let us repeat that portion, "And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge."

How can we keep our bodies pure? When our bodies are pure, what thoughts do we have? Whom do we please? What promise has He given to those who keep His commandments?

LESSON 34. YOUTHS WHO WOULD NOT BOW TO AN IDOL

Text: Daniel 3.

Aim: Courage to do right wins the favor of God and man.

Memory Gem: "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace."

I. Jealousy of the King's Counselors.

II. Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Idol.

1. The decree.
2. Penalty.

III. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

1. Refuse to bow before the idol.
2. Their faith.
3. Cast into the fiery furnace.

IV. Their Deliverance.

1. By the power of God.
2. The effect.

Point of Contact: Bessie and Irene awoke early one beautiful Sabbath morning in June. The birds were singing and the sun shining.

All nature looked very beautiful from their bedroom window—the grass, the flowers, ripe fruits and vegetables.

They decided to get up and take a long walk before Sunday School. Arising, they washed and dressed themselves in their best clothes, not forgetting to bow down and thank our Heavenly Father for His care over

them. Slipping quietly down stairs they partook of a light breakfast and started off. They enjoyed the walk, admired the trees, flowers, and streams of water, and in their hearts felt to praise the Lord for making this world so beautiful for His children. "Aren't you thankful," said Bessie, "that our Heavenly Father has given us one day in the week when we can forget our work and play, and meet together in His house to worship Him?" "Yes I am thankful," said Irene. "We had better turn around now and go to the chapel, so we may be sure to be in good time for Sunday School."

On the return journey they met some of their friends with well-filled lunch boxes, going towards the canyon.

"Oh, come and join us. We are so glad to have met you. We have plenty of lunch for all."

"No, thank you," said the girls.

It took some courage to say it, but these girls could be brave when they knew that they were in the right, and oh how much they enjoyed the Sunday School, and how happy they felt the rest of the day.

What made the girls feel unusually happy that day? Who was pleased with them? How does it make us feel to know that we have pleased our Heavenly Father? What has our Heavenly Father said concerning the Sabbath day? How can we show Him that we love Him?

We will now tell you of how three of those captive princes, of whom we learned last Sunday, had the courage to do right, even at the risk of their lives.

Lesson Statement: I. These three Hebrew princes, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, whose names the

king had changed, grew to be wise, good and honest young men, and the king trusted them, and made them rulers in Babylon. But some of the king's helpers, his counselors, were wicked men, and were jealous because the king trusted the Hebrews more than he did them, and they decided to try to have them killed. Now the king did not love God, but worshiped idols, and they knew these young men would not do that. So the wicked men persuaded the king to make a golden idol, and to command everybody to worship it.

II. The king did not think of the trap these men were laying for his favorites, so he built the idol. It was a golden image, larger than a high monument, and it was set up in the midst of a plain. Then the king sent to gather together all the rulers of his provinces to come to the dedication of the image. When they were all assembled and stood before the image, a herald cried aloud, "To you it is commanded, oh people, nations and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of cornet, flute, harp, and all kinds of sweet music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up; and whosoever falleth not down and worshipeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." The furnaces in those days were like large ovens, or brick kilns—"a sort of house quite full of fire" for burning and baking bricks or anything else that required a very great heat.

III. When these three Hebrews, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, heard about the king's command, and even the great and dreadful punishment, they knew they

would have to disobey him. For they loved God, our Heavenly Father, and would worship no other. They stood up bravely and said, "Our God whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king! But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." This made the king so very angry that he ordered the furnace to be made seven times hotter than usual. Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were bound hand and foot and thrown into it.

IV. Presently the king gave a loud cry. For in the midst of the fire were the men, not tied, but free, and walking in the burning heat as if they were in cool air!

And there was another with them whose form was as the Son of God. Then Nebuchadnezzar, the king, was astonished, and rose up in haste, and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth and come hither."

They weren't hurt in the least and there wasn't even the smell of fire about their clothing. God had taken care of them, and kept them safe, in the midst of the flames.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spoke, and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in Him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God." Then he commanded the people never more to say anything against the God who had delivered His children from the fiery furnace.

Note.—The idol was about ninety feet high, by nine feet wide. Probably nine feet square at the base. This would mean little to the child, but if some object about this size is chosen for comparison, the child's mental picture will be clearer.

Application: What did the king think of the princes who had courage to do the right? What do you think the Lord thought of them? Have you ever seen any one have courage to do the right when some one wanted him to do wrong? Tell us of it. Sometimes when boys get older, their companions want them to smoke. How should they act? If any one ever wants you to say something that is not true, what should you do? No matter what wrong was suggested, what story could you remember? If you had as much courage as the captive princes, how would you feel? Who would love you?

LESSON 35. A PRINCE WHO DARED TO SERVE GOD

Text: Daniel 6.

Aim: God protects those who have faith in Him.

Memory Gem: "My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me."

Song: "Dare to Do Right." Primary Song Book.

I. One of Three Presidents.

1. Faithful and true.
2. Jealousy of the others.

II. Laws of the Medes and Persians unchangeable.

1. The rule that a royal statute must be executed.
2. Decree against prayer.

III. Daniel's faith and integrity.

1. Kneeling, prayed three times a day.

IV. The demand upon the king.

1. That Daniel be punished.

V. Daniel Cast into the Lions' Den.

1. The king's encouraging words.
2. The king's fast and sleepless night.

VI. Mouths of the Lions Shut.

1. The king's discovery in the morning.
2. "My God hath sent His angel."
3. Daniel delivered.

VII. God Glorified.

1. "He is the living God."

Point of Contact: Ned had invited a few friends to visit him at his home in the canyon. They had a splendid time roving over the hills, fishing, etc. They slept in a large room with a number of beds in it.

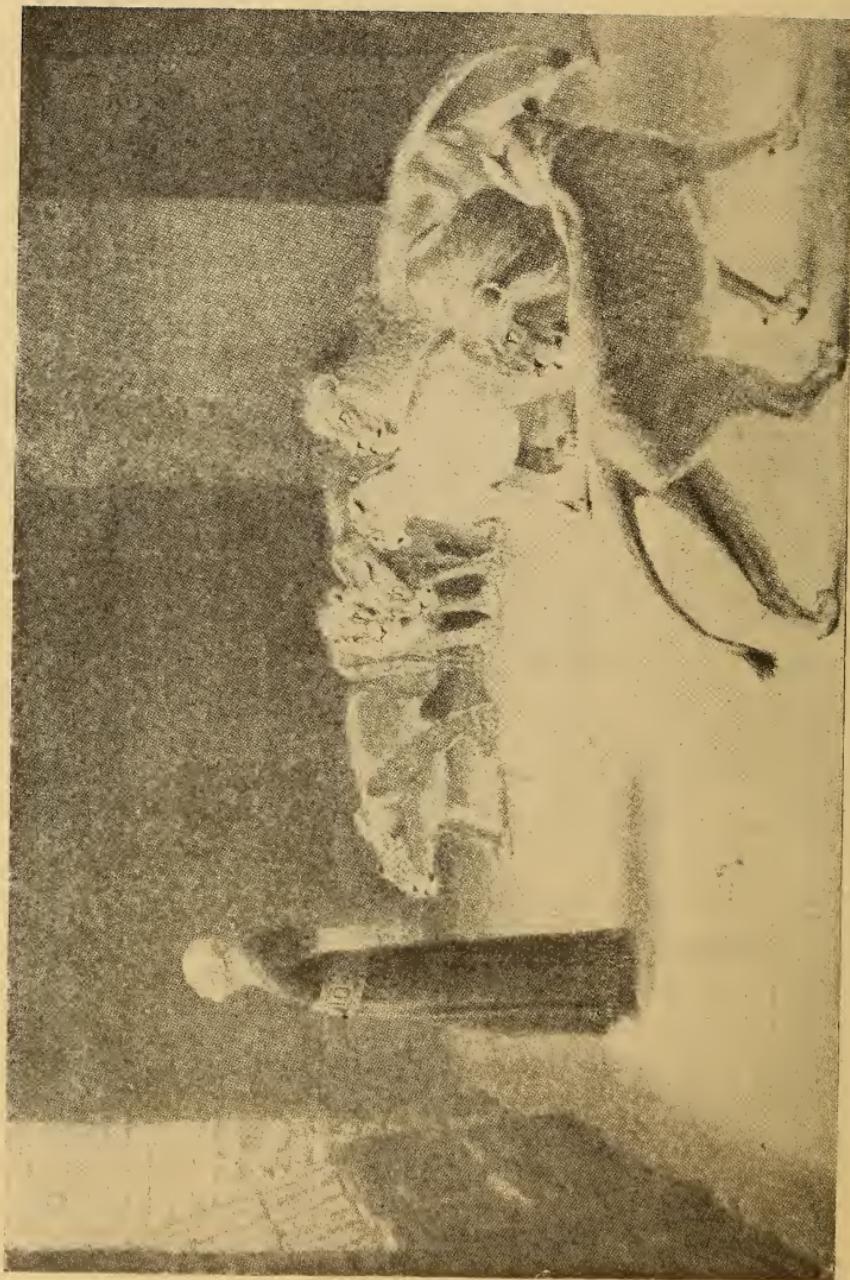
The boys arose early, washed and dressed and combed their hair neatly. Then Fred, Tom and John came rushing out, declaring their appetites were good, and wanting breakfast. Ned's mother noticed that Lowell was not with them, and glancing into the room, saw him kneeling at his bedside in prayer, thanking his Heavenly Father for the protection of the past night, and asking for His guidance during the coming day. At the breakfast table Ned's mother said, "Boys, Lowell is the only one of you who started right today." "How is that?" asked one after another. "Just stop and think if the rest of you did not forget the most important thing today?"

No matter where you are or what the conditions, remember the morning prayer, that you may start right, having won our Heavenly Father's favor.

Would you like to hear of a man who knew how necessary it is to pray, and who dared to do right?

Lesson Statement: I. Darius, the Median king, who had conquered Babylon, being an old man, chose three men to assist him in the government, whom he called presidents. Because Darius knew of the faithfulness to every trust, and the "excellent spirit" of Daniel, he made him the first president, giving him greater authority than the princes and the other presidents.

"Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but



Daniel in the Lion's Den

Briton Riviere R. A.

they could not find occasion nor fault; for as much as he was faithful, neither was there error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God." They knew Daniel was fearless, and thought nothing could make him fail in his duty to our Heavenly Father, so they sought to get the king to issue an order, or a royal decree, forbidding the doing of something which God's children ought to do, and that any one disobeying the decree should be cast into a den of lions. They flattered the king, saying to him: "King Darius, live forever."

II. A very foolish and unwise custom prevailed among that people. A decree established by the king could not be changed, whether it were good or bad, and knowing that Daniel prayed to our Heavenly Father, they asked the king to decree "that whosoever shall ask a petition" (and our prayers to the Heavenly Father are petitions) "of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into a den of lions."

III. How many of us would be brave enough and strong enough to say our prayers, at the risk of being thrown into a den of lions!

Daniel knew that God wanted all of His children to pray to Him twice a day; to thank Him for His many blessings, to ask for His protecting care, and he knew also that God was both willing and able to protect His children, and that He was greater than any king. Daniel not only prayed twice a day, but three times a day, and, altho' he knew of the king's decree, he feared to do

wrong more than he feared the king or any man, so he continued to pray three times each day; nor would he change his manner of praying, so he prayed before his open window.

IV. Of course these wicked men were watching, and when they saw Daniel praying to God, they went to the king and reminded him of the decree, and the king said: "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not."

"Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day."

V. The king loved Daniel, and no doubt was sorry that he had permitted himself to be led into the making of the decree, but while he wanted to save him, he could not now change the decree. They brought Daniel and cast him into a den of lions. Darius hoped and had faith that God would deliver Daniel, and he said unto Daniel, "Thy God, whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee." The king then went to his palace, and did what we often do when we want some great gift from our Heavenly Father, he fasted. He could not sleep, nor would he listen to music, but "arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions." With anguish in his voice he said: "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?"

VI. Daniel had been cast into the den the night before, a den in which were hungry lions, who naturally

would tear to pieces anything they could eat, that might be thrown to them, yet, to the king's question there came a reply saying: "My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions's mouths, that they have not hurt me." The law or decree was satisfied, Daniel had been cast into the den, so the king "commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."

VII. King Darius then issued another decree—"That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for He is the living God."

Application: What should we do each morning after arising from our bed? What the last thing before going to bed? What may we expect if we thank our Heavenly Father for every blessing we have, and ask for His protecting care?

LESSON 36. A BRAVE YOUNG QUEEN

Text: Book of Esther.

Aim: Great blessings come through fasting and prayer.

Memory Gem:

I. Ahasuerus becomes King.

1. His Queen.

II. Haman's Plan.

1. Why made.

2. The plan.

3. The king's consent.

III. Mordecai.

1. His distress.

2. His appeal to the queen.

IV. Queen Esther.

1. Custom regarding the palace.

2. Her appeal to the Jews.

3. The fasting and prayer.

4. The prayer answered.

Point of Contact: What do we call the first Sunday in the month? Why does the Lord want His people to fast? A wonderful thing happened once because the Jews fasted and prayed.

King Cyrus ruled over a great many countries. His kingdom was a very large one, including over a hundred provinces. Scattered through these provinces were many of the Children of Israel or Jews, as they were

then called. The Jews had been treated very unkindly by both the kings and the people, but King Cyrus gave them permission to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

Who built the temple? Who destroyed it? Why did our Heavenly Father allow it to be destroyed?

When this permission was granted the Jews, many of them returned to Jerusalem and began working upon the temple. They also began to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, that had been laid desolate so many years before. With what glad hearts they started upon this long journey! Their exile had taught them a lesson, and never again do we hear of the Jews worshiping idols. Of course not all of the children of Israel could return to Jerusalem, and a great many of them remained where they were, so in most every province many Jews still lived.

Lesson Statement. I. After Cyrus, Ahasuerus became king. King Ahasuerus' queen was a beautiful Jewish maiden named Esther. The king, however, did not know that Esther was a Jewess, for when she came to the kingdom, Mordecai, who had been as a father to her, charged her that she should not show her people nor her kindred.

The king had several men who helped him in his kingdom, who were called rulers. One of these rulers was named Haman. He was a man who loved power and wanted to be a great ruler. So he served the king well, that he might win favor in his sight. Haman was promoted until he became the chief ruler. He was so



Esther Braves the King

Otto Von Heyden

great that "all the king's servants bowed and reverenced him; but Mordecai bowed not nor did him reverence."

II. "And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath and he sought to destroy all the Jews that were in the kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai."

"And Haman said unto King Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people, neither keep they the king's laws; therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed.

"And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman. And the king said unto Haman, The people are given thee to do with them as it seemeth good to thee."

The decree was written and sealed with the king's ring, and sent into all the provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women. A certain day was assigned for this destruction.

III. When Mordecai perceived all that was done, he was filled with sorrow for his people. He clothed himself in a coarse cloth, called sackcloth, and came before the king's gate. In every province wherever the king's decree came, there was great sorrow and mourning among the Jews. When Queen Esther heard how Mordecai stood at the king's gate, she sent her messenger to find out the cause. Mordecai gave the messenger a

copy of the decree, to show it unto Esther, and he said "Charge her that she should go in unto the king to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people."

IV. When Esther received Mordecai's message she was grieved for her people, but she sent word to him saying, "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live; but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days."

And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

"Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther. Think not for thyself. And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer: "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

So Mordecai went out into the city and gathered the Jews together. They fasted and prayed for three days. On the third day Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's palace. How great was her faith in her Heavenly Father that she had sufficient courage to do this, when it might mean death to her! But her prayers and the prayers of her people

were heard and answered, for "when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near and touched the top of the sceptre.

"Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, Queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

"Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favor in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish."

Then Mordecai was sent for, and came before the king for Esther, and told what he was unto her. "And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai." And Mordecai was made ruler in Haman's place.

"And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman." And said, "If it please the king, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces. For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people! or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?"

"Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen, and to Mordecai the Jew, * * * Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring."

Therefore letters were written and sent out "Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them.

"And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day."

Application: When we are in need of blessings what do we do first of all? Sometimes we want them very badly. What else besides pray, could we do? What must go with our fasting and prayer?

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